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Knight Fantastic Night - Arc 01-02 Chapter 04

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Chapter 1 - Forever an unfortunate girl

[Proofreading help by Caek! Thank you so much! It's now much more readable :D Visit his profile!](#)

It is an early spring morning, blanketed by a white mist. The mist shrouds J City's most prestigious high school, an elegant building of European architecture. Oriental Plane trees line both sides of the road leading to the main building, new leaves sprouting from branches. Azaleas too, have begun blooming, their petals lined with morning dew.

At the school's main gate, school officials and teachers on duty are checking each students meticulously, ensuring that the school's badge are worn by the students. Leaf High School is after all, a top high school in J City. Thus, such diligent spot check is normal!

Not far from the main gate, several boys were busy discussing last night's football match.

"Hey! Why are you taking your sweet time? Don't you know it's the Demon Queen's duty today?"

A boy spoke out to them as he rides his bicycle past them.

As soon as the boys heard that fearful name, their faces changed to that of fear and they ran with much gusto towards the school.

Meanwhile, a short haired girl stands in a crowded bus with a hurried expression. Her dark, black eyes look anxious. Her petite face is beet red from the heat. An old fashioned glasses

wobbled on the bridge of her nose in tandem with the rocky bus.

In this world, there is no one else more unlucky than this girl named Lin Ling. To think that she is late on her first day of school! To add to that bad luck, both her parents overslept, the alarm clock got busted, she knocked over her neighbour's trash can, and a Chihuahua chased her for no reason! ... Why on earth are there so many unlucky incidents happening in the same morning! It's obvious that no one is going to believe such a story.

Dear bus, I beg you, please hurry up! As her eyes wandered around, she noticed a hand slowly making its way to a lady's handbag in front of her. She exclaimed in her heart, a thief! As she followed the hand with her eyes, a pair of eyes glared at her ferociously, as though daring her to make a peep. Shocked, she looked down, carefully avoiding the stare.

That was scary! I'll take it as I saw nothing at all...

As soon as the bus reaches her station, she quickly jumped down and make her way towards the school gate. She almost reached the school gate when an n number of students too are bolting madly towards the school. Puzzled, she glanced at the boy's face closest to her while she ran. His face seems strangely twisted, and it was not just him. All students passing her by had the exact strange face, as though their wallet has been snatched and they are desperately chasing the thief to get it back. *TL: I did not make this line up.*

"Student! Hurry up!"

A tall girl had already caught up to her.

"Or we'll be late!"

Although they will indeed be late, do they need to exaggerate that much?

While Lin Ling was dazed and confused on the girl's meaning, the girl ushered Lin Ling to move faster her while she herself sped up too.

"Hurry up!"

Lin Ling nodded and increased her speed. It is not good to be late! It is at this moment that the tragedy happened.

Lin Ling's school bag's buckle unfastened with a loud snap all of a sudden. She exclaimed in surprise, and the contents of her bag scattered all over the place, books and paper alike.

"Why am I so unlucky," she muttered to herself, gnashing her teeth and twisting her bookbag strap.

This is not the first time such an incident has happened, nor does she think will be the last. As though born with it, the bad luck has always been following her all her life. As soon as she was born, her mother accidentally kicked her off the bed. This must be the first indication of her bad luck, and the start of her tragic life.

Almost drowning while washing her face, always getting pickpocketed in the supermarket, the phone is always out of battery once there is an emergency, the boys she have crush on hates her, *etc.*

The tall girl stopped in her tracks once she saw Lin Ling's predicament. She walked towards Lin Ling, and bent down to

help pick up the books off the floor.

Touched by her actions, Lin Ling quietly whispered her gratitude.

"Thank you, but please go. Else you'll be late as well."

She smiled, and said "It's okay. It's not like this is the first time I'm late."

As the two busily picked up the flinged contents of the bag, they were reminded of their predicament by a shrill and loud voice. A fat lady teacher (*TL: I know this sounds weird, but 'fat lady teacher' is what it says here.*) stood in front of the school's main gate. Holding the stopwatch in one hand, and counting with the other, she yelled, "9, 8, 7... 3, 2, 1!"

With a loud bang, she closed the gates. Dozen or so students who failed to make it in crowded outside the main gates. The fat lady teacher grinned.

"Well, looks like you are all with me."

The leftover students looked at one another, and all broke out cold sweat.

"Oh no, I think we should go with them as well."

As Lin Ling begin walking towards the crowd, the tall girl pulled her towards a tree, conveniently shielding them from sight while making a "Be quiet!" gesture.

"Wow! Are you new here? If the Demon Queen gets her hand on you, you're finished!"

The tall girl gave a look of fear before continuing.

"You never experienced the Demon Queen's 10 Tortures, have you?"

"The Demon Queen?"

Lin Ling rubbed her ears in disbelief.

"Do you mean that fat teacher?"

"So you really are a new student. That Demon Queen is the scariest and a fierce teacher in this school!"

She puts on a horrified face, then laughed.

"That's right. My name is Guo Ting. What about you?"

"My name is Lin Ling. So... what do we do now?"

Guo Ting smiled at Lin Ling at her question.

"Relax, follow me."

Guo Ting then led Lin Ling to the back of the school, and nodded towards a wall.

"We climb in here."

"Huh?" Lin Ling face changed, and she reflexively took a step back.

"Don't worry! The wall's not that high. I'll climb over first. If

everything is okay, follow me. Understand?"

Guo Ting threw her bag over the wall as she said this, and nimbly climbed over the wall.

"Lin Ling..."

On the other side of the wall, Guo Ting quietly whispered to her partner in crime.

"The horizon's clear. Climb over here quick! ... Oh no no no, I can't hold it in any longer. I need the toilet! I'll go first, climb over quickly, okay?"

The flurried footsteps quickly faded away. Lin Ling glanced at the wall helplessly. Climb this wall? This is seriously a challenge to the timid girl.

However, Lin Ling remembered Guo Ting's warning of the 10 Tortures. The thought of it send shivers to Lin Ling's bones. Um, oh well let's just climb this once. Mimicking the tall girl, Lin Ling threw her bag over the wall. As she does this, she heard her bag made a funny noise, an unlikely noise if the bag were to make contact with the ground. Nevertheless, Lin Ling thought nothing of this, and carefully climbed the wall. She's almost there! She can almost taste the sweetness of victory, until she reached the top of the wall. She suddenly feel very frightened at the newfound height. To make matter worse, she heard a loud bang and was greeted with a blurry sight. Oh no! To think that her glasses fell to the ground! *TL: Basically, she was scared of the height and plopped down onto the school grounds.*

"Hey there, why the rush?"

A boy's voice greeted her from afar as she sat on the cold

ground. It was a sweet, alluring voice. A tempting voice that makes people wanting to hear more.

"My... My glasses fell somewhere around here." Lin Ling softly spoke.

"Can you look for them for me?"

"Your glasses?"

The boy begin walking towards Lin Ling closer and closer, but for the girl with a bad eyesight, she saw nothing but a silhoutte of a boy in school uniform.

"Can you see my face?" The boy asked with a gentle voice.

Lin Ling shook her head.

"That's good." The boy's eyes narrowed slightly, "By the way, when you threw your bag over the wall, it hit my shoulder."

"Huh?" Surprised, Lin Ling quickly apologised.

"I'm sorry! I'm so sorry!"

"It's okay. I don't mind that much. Oh, I need to go to class now. Goodbye."

The boy's displeased tone says otherwise, and he kicked the glasses even further from Lin Ling.

"Pick up your glasses yourself! But I'm afraid you'll need more time to look for it."

"Hey!" She could not help but shout in return. "Return my glasses!" *TL: I know this part sounds weird, he just kicked it away. Why on earth are you shouting like that? She kinda meant it in a way, 'give it back'!*

He ignored her outcry, and simply walked on while smiling devilishly. He whispered softly, "This is the fate of those who crossed me! Four eyed!"

"You come back here!" Lin Ling shouted after him.

Before she had time to get back up, footsteps approached her, followed by a pair of women shoes appearing in her line of sight. *(TL: Literal translation. Women shoes lmao.)* Her heart tightened at the sight. As she gingerly looked up, she saw a silhouette of a fat lady. Wait.... a fat lady? Could it be... The voice she heard next confirmed her fears.

"Good morning, is this glasses yours?"

I'm a goner... Lin Ling suddenly thought of this three word that aptly suited her situation. *(TL: Here, she says 2 words actually. English-ized to make it fit.)* She daintily received her fallen glasses from the Demon Queen, and breathe a sigh of relief. The world is clear again. It is also at this moment that she "clearly" saw... *(TL: Intentional "clear". Since in Chinese it says that she "clearly saw".)* The very same group of late students. And they are bunny hopping... with a student manual on their heads *(TL: Unclear. But I think it meant student manual.)*. The Demon Queen too, glanced at the scene that Lin Ling saw and grinned.

"If the student manual falls off, you need to redo your bunny hopping again. Hehehe..."

Lin Ling break into a cold sweat. Is that one of the 10 Tortures? Seeing that Lin Ling is a new student, the Demon Queen unexpectedly gave her a much more lenient punishment. She released Lin Ling after she has finished copying the student manual 10 times (*TL: Guesswork here.*). Only then was Lin Ling introduced to her classmates. However, before Lin Ling was even introduced (?), her "heroic" deeds has already spread to the entire school. Lin Ling is already not accustomed to the whole school transfer thing. Now, she has entered the "famous people" list in school. It is already depressing enough to think about it!

It's all that boy's fault!, thought Lin Ling as she bit her pen. She looked out the window and thought, if it's not for that boy, this would not have happened!

"Hello, Lin Ling! I never thought we are classmates! What a coincident!"

A tall girl suddenly appeared at Lin Ling's table.

"I'm so sorry about this morning! I never thought you could be this unlucky. I should have waited for you to climb over before I left!" (*TL: She's not being mean. It's not mean at all in Chinese.*)

Lin Ling turned her head towards the girl, just to see it's Guo Ting from the wall climbing incident this morning.

"It's not your fault. I have always been this unlucky..." Lin Ling softly spoke.

"Haha!" Guo Ting laughed heartily.

"Come with me after school! I'll buy you ice cream."

Once the last bell rang, Guo Ting enthusiastically dragged Lin Ling away. As the both walked down the stairs, Lin Ling saw a group of girls gathered at the school's gate. Some hold gifts, and some flowers. All of them had a smitten expression in their eyes.

"Why are there so many people?" Lin Ling asked.

Guo Ting winked mysteriously and said, "Oh, you'll know in a bit."

As soon as she finished her words, the chattering girls become dead quiet. Following their line of sight, Lin Ling saw a boy walking out of the teacher's room.

"AHHHH! Third Prince! It's the Third Prince!" One of the girls shrieked and with a domino effect, the rest followed as if it's a chain reaction. The so-called "prince" seems to be accustomed to this and kept his elegant smile.

"What Third Prince?"

Lin Ling pushed her glasses up. The boy is indeed an eye candy, but such an overwhelming response seems to be too much.

"Oh, his name is Qi Wen Yu. Rumours say that he has a 'noble's' blood (?). Since he's the third son, everyone calls him the Third Prince. Oh, that's right. Have you heard of the Imperial Court Group?"

Guo Ting stared at the Third Prince as she asked.

"The Imperial Court Group? You mean the group that build hotels, convenience stores and supermarkets... 'THE' Imperial Court group?!"

Lin Ling is no stranger to this brand name. Their advertisements are always plastered on television. In fact, its said that Leaf High School is also under this group (?).

"That's right. He's third in line of that group's succession! Think about it! He's a high class product, rich, handsome and sweet. That'd make any girl go crazy! If I can be his girlfriend..."

Guo Ting soon entered her daydream mode.

"Guo Ting, you are drooling."

Lin Ling quickly produced a paper towel. As Lin Ling busied herself snapping Guo Ting out of her fantasy, a black Rolls Royce stopped at the school gate. A well-dressed chauffeur stepped out of the car, and bowed towards the Third Prince(?). The Third Prince smiled at the chauffeur, and stepped into the car elegantly.

"Third Prince!"

A girl boldly rushed over and handed over the box on her hands to him.

"This... I made this pastry myself! Please, please try it!"

Her voice soon quickly become whispers as deadly glares pierced her body. The Third Prince stretched his fingers towards it, picked up a slice of cake and ate it.

As he slowly chewed, he smiled and said to the girl,

"That was delicious. Thank you."

Delighted at his response, she found herself at lost for words. At the corner, Guo Ting bit her paper towel with a frustrated expression. *TL: Like how anime girls do it. Like how your mouth forms a ^ shape and bite a handkerchief!*

"The Third Prince smiled at her! I'll make a cake tomorrow as well!"

"He's so gentle..."

"The Third Prince is so well-mannered. He's so kind to anyone!"

"I'm even more in love with the Third Prince than ever!"

All around Lin Ling are girls praising the Third Prince endlessly, but Lin Ling wasn't paying attention.

Why.. Why does his voice sound like that boy's voice?!

林零 = Lin Ling. Her first syllable is a normal name, but the next means 'zero'.

三公子 = Third Prince. Literally.

皇庭集团 = Imperial Court Group. It's kinda like a conglomerate. Except I have no idea how to translate the name! Let's just go with Imperial Court.

郭婷 = Guo Ting. Chinese names will remain as such.

Chapter 2 - A doll... or a minx?

EDIT: Minx sounds much better than the literal translation.

TL: So much easier. Here's chapter 2.

As soon as Lin Ling gets back home, she thought of the incident this morning. Did she misheard it? That angel-like boy simply cannot be that bad of a person!

"Lin Ling, are you listening to me? How's your new school?"

Lin Ling's mother patted her shoulder lightly. She quickly snapped out of her daydream.

"Hm, not bad."

Lin Ling nodded, and ate a slice of eggplant. (?) *TL: I... I dunno...*

"Leaf High School is a prestigious school. Pay close attention in classes, you hear me? Make sure you keep up with the other students. Only then can you be admitted into a good university! Only AFTER you entered a good university can you then..."

"Mum, did Dad get on the afternoon plane? How many days is he going again?"

Lin Ling head always hurt when her mother starts nagging. It's her usual trick to change the topic to avoid speaking about it.

"Your father will be back once he's finished discussing the business deal."

Lin Ling's mother replied while topping up her bowl with even more carrots.

"Eat somemore."

Lin Ling frowned, but nevertheless used her chopsticks to pick up her most disliked vegetables.

"Dad's always busy doing work outstation..."

"Your father is doing this for us. Else, how would we pay off those ridiculously high tuition fees for your school. Don't fret about this matter, just study as hard as you can, understand?"

"Alright..."

Lin Ling slowly finished her meal and tipped her mother.

"Mum, I finished my meal."

Lin Ling's mother smiled graciously and said, "Good. Wash your hands and go finish your homework."

Lin Ling was going to put her dishes into the kitchen, but was stopped by her mother.

"I'll clean this up. Just study hard, alright? Ah yes, by the way, starting this Sunday, I invited an English and Maths tutor for you. Both are excellent teachers."

Upon hearing this, Lin Ling's expression turned dour. She headed straight to her room, laid on her bed, and yelled into her pillow.

My life is so boringggggg!

Endless assignments, exams, rote learning! Is life meant to be lived like this?! Studies, studies and more studies! Admitted to a good university in the future, work in a good company, found a decent husband, pop out a kid, then repeat the process! Make the child study, study and study...

Although this is a really boring routine, is this not life? Lin Ling does not think anything special will ever happen to a normal girl like her. If God would only (?) (*TL: I have no idea what it says.*), Lin Ling would be so grateful to Him. It seems like God did not hear this unlucky girl's prayer. However, the next day, no misfortunate events caused her to be late to school. However, the moment she step foot out of her door, the sky grumbles, and rain falls.

The bus is crowded yet again, the smell of breakfast wafted through the bus. (?) (*TL: I have no idea...*) She gripped the railings (*TL: You know how buses have those uhhhh... things to let people grip them.*) tightly to prevent herself from falling to the momentum of the rickety bus. It is at this moment, she felt someone in close proximity at her back. Thinking that the bus is crowded, she moved forward to give way. Unexpectedly, the person behind also followed her movement. Feeling disgusted at the approach, she turned her head just to see... an uncle with a disgusting, perverted expression. (?)

Although Lin Ling feels disgusted, she chose to say nothing. Instead, she tries desperately to push him away. Thinking that she finally succeeds in doing so, she looked over her shoulder just to see the very same uncle harassing another girl. Alas,

this girl has guts. She slapped his hand away. Shocked, the perverted uncle moved a few steps backwards. Lin Ling softly whispered to herself, why can't she summon her courage to do that too? Instead of hating on that perverted uncle, she hated her cowardly self.

Once she gets down the bus, she used her fastest speed and ran towards the school. As soon as she reaches the gate, she inadvertently glanced at her chest. Her heartbeat almost stopped at the sight. Several crows crowed as they passed by above her head.

The, the, the school badge is missing!

As though on cue, Guo Ting's voice came from behind Lin Ling.

"Lin Ling! Why aren't you going in?"

Lin Ling's expression turned to a troubled one.

"Guo Ting! I... I...!"

Lin Ling pointed to her supposed pinned school badge on her chest. That is to say, not there at all.

"So that's why. You just forgot to wear your badge! This is easily solved!"

Guo Ting pointed to hers as well.

"I forgot mine too!"

"Oh great! Now what do we do?"

Lin Ling asked in a troubled voice.

"Relax, it'll be fine. Watch me. Just support me when the prefects come."

Guo Ting winked at Lin Ling and walked towards the prefects with great confidence. With impressive acting skills, she bent over and covered her chest, all the while groaning as if in pain. Everyone was shocked at her actions, and begin asking how is she feeling.

"My... My chest hurts..." Guo Ting walked while covering her chest.

"I need to... hurry to the... infirmary...!"

Lin Ling quickly caught up to her acts, and supported Guo Ting.

"I'll bring you there!"

"Go! Just go! Quickly!"

Even the teachers on duty is ushering them to hurry up, and none bothered to check whether their school badges is pinned on their chest. Guo Ting looked down at Lin Ling, made a mischievous face before doing an "Okay" gesture. Only when both of them reached the school buildings that they stopped the act.

Guo Ting who could not stop laughing said, "See? I told you it's easy."

Lin Ling looked at Guo Ting with nothing but admiration. Her methods really do work, and it's something that Lin Ling can

not think of in the first place. It is a pity, Lin Ling thought, that she can't think of such a witty method on the fly. Since young, she has always been called a bookworm.

"Thank you, Guo Ting." Lin Ling's eyelid flickered as she thanked her friend.

"It's thanks to you today..."

"It's okay! We should help each other in anyway."

Guo Ting patted Lin Ling's shoulder and said, "That's what friends are for, right?"

~~Nakama...~~ Friend... A burst of warmth spread over Lin Ling's heart. She felt appreciated, a feeling that she is not used to. But, I... I do not hate this feeling.

"Are you backstabbing me?!" A sharp and shrill voice from the lab next door, accompanied by a girl's soft cries filled the surroundings. Hearing this voice, Guo Ting smiled lightly.

"Must be that girl, Chen Yi. She's bullying others again."

"Chen Yi?" Lin Ling is not familiar with this name. (?)

"Yes, she's the vice president of the Third Prince's class. (?) I heard rumours that her parents are really loaded. Thanks to that, she's not afraid to bully anyone that she hates. Her nickname's Minx (?)."

Guo Ting filled Lin Ling on this as she walks towards the lab next door.

"So why are you meddling in her affairs?"

Lin Ling desperately tried to stop Guo Ting's advances. She tries to pull Guo Ting away from the door.

"We should mind our own business!"

"NO! I can not stand that women having her own way!"

Guo Ting pushed away Lin Ling's hand and roughly, whammed the lab's door open.

Laboratory equipments littered the table. There, stood several arrogant looking girls, led by a petite girl. A slim body, well-cared for hair that screams cute hairstyle, the supposed petite leader is almost like a delicate doll. Unfortunately, this angel-like appearance is a facade as the girl in question wears an sadistic smile on her face. The Minx, so to speak, is now preparing a reagent to pour onto another girl's face as she sits helplessly on the floor.

"P-p-please... I don't want this!" The girl pitiful begged her.

The Minx did not expect Guo Ting to appear in this place. She casually shook the test tube she was holding while moved her posture to acknowledge her presence.

"You again, Guo Ting."

"Chen Yi. Stop this at once! If you don't, I'll go get the teacher!"

So this is Chen Yi. Lin Ling feels a little surprised at this revelation. After all, anyone would after seeing such a lovely

girl doing such "evil" actions.

"You'll tattletale me to a teacher? Ooooh~ I'm so scared~" Chen Yi 'accidentally' spilled a little of the test tube's content, splashing onto the girl's face. Astonished, the girl burst into tears.

"Stop crying! It's just water!"

Chen Yi smirked and walked towards the exit. As soon as she approached the exit, she stopped, and turned around to face Guo Ting.

"Can you tell the teachers... How I lovingly wash my fellow student's face?"

"You...!"

Once Chen Yi and her supporters left the room, Guo Ting can not help but to curse her back.

"Guo Ting..." Lin Ling was going to continue her sentence, yet she failed to bring out the words.

"Yes?"

"Oh... it's nothing. Let's go back to class." Lin Ling smiled at her, and left the lab as well.

"Hm, that's right. Let's go back to class. Once school's done, let's go shopping. I know a really special shop!"

Guo Ting quickly throw the incident out the window and happily dragged Lin Ling back to the classroom.

"Okay..." Lin Ling softly replied.

Unknowingly, she felt jealous of the happy-go-lucky Guo Ting. If she had the same attitude as Guo Ting, she can easily overcome these troublesome feelings! Throw them out as easily as wind, just like her cowardly self. Once school is done and over with, Guo Ting rushed to bring her friend to "that special shop", all the while reassuring Lin Ling that she'll absolutely love the place. Since there is still time, Lin Ling pondered at the trip's worthwhile. There's nothing telling her to do otherwise anyway, so Lin Ling followed Guo Ting to see this shop of hers.

TL Note: Phew, second chapter done. Feeling absolutely productive today! My brain cells are massaged and my listening skills improving. I'm going to try churning out the next chapter. If you have yet to notice, I added my own flair of writing so it'll look much easier to read in an "English sense". Cos everyone knows, Chinese bluntly translated to English makes no sense to an English reader lmao.

Chapter 3 - An "out of this world" game!

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TL: The title means an extraordinary game. Like, something extra impressive and not normal. So I made it a pun. I could be wrong, so correct me if I am.

This special shop of Guo Ting is located next to the school, in a very small alley. It is quite hard to notice such a shop unless the customers purposely looked for it. The shop's exterior looks weathered, and the goods are stacked messily in the store.

"Is this that special shop you want to introduce me to?" Lin Ling expressed a slight disappointment at what she sees.

Guo Ting blinked. "Yes, there are plenty of fun games here. That's right! Do you have a computer at home?"

"I only get an hour during the weekends. Usually I'm not allowed to use it otherwise." Lin Ling shook her head.

"If my parents found out I am gaming, they would scold me."

"That's kinda sad... " Guo Ting muttered.

"Some of these games are really fun, you know! It's not a bad idea either to relax and play them."

Suddenly, Guo Ting pulled out a game case from a nearby shelf and exclaimed.

"Look! It's the Three Kingdoms! I've been wanting to play this a long time!"

"I think it's time for me to leave..."

Lin Ling stood up and voila! Her bag got hooked to a nearby shelf, and the games stacked on the shelf come crashing down with a loud noise. Urgh, what bad luck she has. Her luck is just like air, it is everywhere.

"I'm so sorry, owner! We'll clean this up as soon as possible!"

Before the owner of the shop can even yell, Guo Ting quickly pulled Lin Ling down, and start cleaning up the mess. Once they are done, the sky has already turn dark. Lin Ling quickly pulled out her phone.

I'm a goner! I'm done for!

To think that her phone is out of battery at this hour! She quickly rushed back home, expecting a long lecture and a severe cross-examination.

"Why are you so late? Why didn't you pick up your phone?!"

"The truth is, mum, I... My phone ran out of battery so I can't call back..."

"Come back once school is done! Why are you still at school after all the classes has ended? Do you know how much you make me worry?"

"I understand, I won't do it again... That's right. Mum, can we go view (?) (*TL: What's the word for this again.*) the cherry

blossoms in the park this Sunday?"

"Didn't I told you, an English tutor is coming to teach you this Sunday." Lin Ling's mother quickly swatted her hopes away.

"Ah, that's right. Do you know about your cousin? Last year, I heard she passed the entrance exam to become an L graduate student. That's one of the nation's top universities. " And there's your other cousin, who recently went to study abroad. If only you had half their brain, I would thank the Heavens for this gift..."

As though feeling Lin Ling's complete disappointment at the cancelled trip, Lin Ling's mother comforted her.

"As long as you are admitted to a good university, you can go wherever you like. Mum would accompany you there! Here, eat more fish. It's good for you!"

"Okay..." Lin Ling quietly continued her munching to finish her fish-filled bowl. For some reasons, her favourite sweet and sour fish dish seems to taste differently from the last time she remembered.

What has changed? Lin Ling does not know. When did it happened? It's not only the dish that seems to taste different. She now only listens to her mother's ever continuous topic on studying and never responds. The topic just seems to revolve around high school, entering the top university and studying... Again and again, a never ending roundabout. Moreover, just a few days ago, Lin Ling's parents sent away her most loved dog, Ah Hua as well.

Ringggg-----. The house phone suddenly rang. Lin Ling rushed

to pick up the phone. After exchanging a few words, Lin Ling's mother paled.

"Yes, all right, I'll be right there."

"Mum, what's wrong?"

"Your grandfather had an attack and was sent to the hospital. I'm heading over now."

She quickly put on her shoes and jacket. As she prepared to leave the house, Lin Ling stopped her mother.

"I'm going too!"

"No, you are not going anywhere. Let the grown ups handle their matters, I alone is enough. Review your studies at home, all right?"

"But, grandpa..."

"Alright, let's do this instead. Leave the dishes in the sink, review your studies, then go to bed, okay?"

BANG! She closed the door as quickly as she left. Lin Ling put away the dishes in the sink, her expression showing a mixed feeling.

Let the adults handle their own, huh...

But... how can I not care about my own grandfather?

She walked back to her own room, and switched on the lights. A warm, bright lighting filled the entire room. She sat on her chair and proceeded to open her bag for today's homework. As

she fiddled around the bag for her books, her fingers brushed upon a hard, smooth object unlike that of her usual books. Feeling curious, she took it out and saw that it is a CD casing.

Huh? Why do I have this?

Ah, that's right. Didn't she knocked over a shelf of games in that store? It must have dropped into her bag that time.

Written on the disk in large font, is the title "The Legend of King Arthur". What a strange name for a game. Only God knows how long ago it was made. Lin Ling was going to toss the disk aside, until she saw the small prints on the back of the casing.

Are you unhappy with your normal life?

Well then, welcome to the world of The Legend of King Arthur

Be true to yourself

Live happily in a world that belongs only to you

Lin Ling's heart was moved. Just a little bit, she is interested in this game. Mum is out visiting grandpa at the hospital, why not take this chance to try this game awhile? TL: Naughty girl.

Let's try and take a look...

She hesitated for a few minutes before booting up the computer in her room. For security purposes, she locked the door to her room. At the very least, if her mother did a surprise visit, she would have some time to destroy the evidence.

She put the CD into the CD-ROM. As soon as she does that, the lighting of her room dimmed a little. The wind seems to blow eerily from her window as well. She stiffened. Why does this feels so... scary? The monitor screen flickered to a pitch black screen, and 2 lines appeared on the screen.

The moment this game starts, the Wheels of Fate has already been turned

Ye who quit, be warned, for a terrible curse will befall thee

Lin Ling's heart almost stopped beating for a second, as she reads the two lines. This game is really scary! Without even looking any further, Lin Ling pressed the Eject button, hoping to take the CD out. The CD-ROM gave no response whatsoever. She paled. She tried to press the Shut Down button next, yet nothing happened again.

That's right, the power slot!

She stood up from her chair quickly. Somehow, before she can move, she saw the 2 line disappear from the screen. The black screen is now like a black hole, as if able to suck her in whole.

"Ahhhh!" She saw her hands slowly being sucked into the black hole that is her monitor, and screamed for help.

Head... Next, her whole body. She lost her consciousness as she thought, she is slowly being sucked in...

A slow breeze breezed through her room, her light blue curtains whipped by the breeze itself. A flickering monitor slowly comes

back to life, the chair shows a slight movement from it's previous occupant. All of these quickly come to a halt, as though nothing has ever happened...

After an unknown period of time, Lin Ling regained consciousness. A slight breeze blew the grass as it scratches her face. She felt an itch, like a furry dog brushing against her face.

"Ah Hua, stop it..."

Her hand did a habitual slap towards the supposed dog, only to find a weird feeling on her hand.

"Ah Hua, did you get fatter....? No more fatty meat, okay?"

All of a sudden, a bad smell wafted into her nostrils. In anger, she pinched the "other's" ear.

"Stop licking my lips! You stink!"

Ah Hua too seems to be mad, and growled deeply. Somehow, this guttural roar made her ears ring. Wait... This doesn't sound like Ah Hua....

Her heartbeat stopped for a second. As she opened her eyes, she was stunned.

That's not Ah Hua! This... thing! That disturbed her sleep! Is a...

LION!

To make matters worse, she is currently pinching the lion's ear really, really hard. Wasn't she enjoying that computer game in

her room? How did a lion appear? That's right... I'm dreaming. This is a dream... I must have fallen asleep while playing that game. Lin Ling slowly raised her hand, and slapped herself hard.

Ouch! That hurts!

How can I feel pain in a dream? Could it be... this is not a dream?

Can someone tell me what is going onnnnnnn?!

TL Note: That's the end of Chapter 3. I'm slowly getting used to this. I would be more than happy to churn out the next chapter. Alas, I need my sleep. Also...

Ah Hua = Little Flower

Chapter 4 - A strange wizard in the forest

TL: All the chapters aren't that long if you read them. But damn, they sure are if you translate them. Here's Chapter 4. Enter Merlin, the all-blue guy!

Lin Ling closed back her eyes and murmured under her breath.

"This is a dream. This is a dream. Please let me wake up. Please let me wake up from this nightmare!"

"What a pity, but this is no dream."

She heard the voice just right above her head. Her eyelids fluttered open, shocked at the sudden reply from a clear voice. It was then that she noticed the voice originates from a black robed man, currently sitting on the back of the lion.

His dark blue hair, soft and silky, like that of a serene sea. A beau that would move the hearts of many. The pair of sea blue eyes gives a sense of a calmness, right before a dreadful storm.
TL: Basically, he is all blue.

Lin Ling eyes' are wide open. This beautiful man is too beautiful to be a human!

"W-w-who... are you?" She stammered to get her words across.

"I am Merlin, the wizard. Welcome to the fantasy world of King Arthur."

Merlin smiled at the confused Lin Ling.

King Arthur's fantasy world? This adds even more to Lin Ling's plate. She could only come to one conclusion. The words from that CD game... Could this really be...?

"Am I... in the game world?" Lin Ling's lip barely parted to speak this incredulous thought of hers.

Merlin chuckled and raised his eyebrows.

"That is correct. You are now in the world of King Arthur. The one standing in front of you is Merlin, the Wizard of the Black Forest. This is also the starting point of the game."

Still in disbelief, Lin Ling looked around her. Towering trees that blocks out sunlight towers over her as well. Lush, green surroundings only serve to proof Merlin's word.

"You're... This is a lie! What nonsense is this. How can such a thing happen?! Games like this don't exist! I quit! I want to quit this game! Where's the Escape button?!"

Lin Ling's expression changed from disbelief to that of exasperation. Oh please, she thought. How could such a thing happen in the first place?

"Apologies, but an Escape button does not exist. The key to exit this game is E-G-G."

Merlin smiled.

E-G-G? An egg? "Egg"?

TL: She pronounced it by alphabet, one by one. Then in

English. Then in Chinese.

"What do you mean?"

"It means... Eat an egg or an egg-related dish, and you can exit the game."

"Oooh~"

Her eyes widen as oval as egg. The game designers must really like their eggs. If this is true, all she needs to do is to eat an egg and she can go home! But where can she find one smack dab in the middle of the forest?

Merlin smiled at her antics.

"Lin Ling, I shall give you your first task."

"I don't want to! I won't play your stupid game. I want to go home!"

She began to cry.

"I want to go home. Must I eat an egg to do so? Are smelly duck eggs okay?"

TL: <http://www.odditycentral.com/pics/century-egg-would-you-eat-one.html>

Merlin smiled at her with a difficult expression to read, and said,

"The moment you start this game, the Wheels of Fate has already been turned. Quit, and a terrible curse will befall you."

She raised her head and sniffled.

"That's not true, right?"

"Yes, it is true."

He smiled warmly before continuing.

"Once you start the game, you must reach the end. Else, the curse will indeed happen to you. Should you complete the game instead, you will obtain a precious gift."

Her ears perked at his words.

"But... what should I do to complete the game?"

"Aid Arthur to be the King of Britain, and find the Holy Grail. Only then can the game end."

"Alright... Where's Arthur now?"

"Arthur's mother died when he was young. He was then sent to Count Ector's castle for his noble upbringing. The Countess is Arthur's aunt. Unfortunately, an incident happened. Arthur was jinxed by a witch and is now awaiting your rescue."

"You want me to rescue Arthur from a witch? You got to be kidding me! I'm just a normal high school girl. How can I possibly complete an impossible task?"

"Now is not the time for that. You must train and raise your levels."

Lin Ling had a massive headache as she hears this. She asked,

"How old is Arthur?"

"7 years old."

"AAAAH! HE'S ONLY 7!? That means, I have to wait for him to grow up, make him King of Britain, and find the Holy Grail?! Oh god! I have to wait so many years. I'll be a grandma when I get back home!"

Merlin chuckled.

"Do not worry. Both worlds are not the same, and so is the flow of time. While your time here is fast, the time back of your world flows slower. Moreover, the you now will never change in appearance. Not even in a year, or a decade. Understood?"

"Nice. I get it!"

Unbeknownst to Merlin, Lin Ling muttered to herself. I won't play this time-consuming game, nor do I believe that such a thing can exist. I'll follow him to get myself out of this forest, and I'll find an egg to get out of this game!

"Are you ready now?"

Merlin lightly jumped off the lion and stood in front of Lin Ling. She bit her lower lips in frustration, and nodded.

"Good. Now let's begin your first task."

Merlin patted the lion's back.

"In this forest, there are many evil spirits ready to attack this

lion at night. You shall protect him for three days, three nights. Pass this test, and I will allow you to confront the witch."

Evil spirits? Lin Ling feel goosebumps all over her body. Even her voice rattled as she asked,

"I.. How do I defend against these evil spirits...?"

"Do not worry. I will teach you the basics."

Merlin took out a large racket from his back.

"Speak the incantation I taught you while using this invincible racket to slap them away." *TL: In Chinese, the invincible racket means the world's most powerful racket, in a manner of speaking.*

The invincible racket? Lin Ling tilted her head, and looked up and down this "invincible racket".

... Isn't that a fly swatter...?

TL: <https://peacefulwife.files.wordpress.com/2012/07/fly-swatter.jpg>

"What's the incantation?"

"It is a simple incantation, 8 words in total. I hit, I hit, I hit hit hit! Hey Lin Ling, don't faint now!"

Merlin exclaimed in surprise.

Haha... She rubbed her own head as she chuckled. It's going to be even weirder if no one fainted after knowing that!

She is now suspecting that this wizard is really a modern guy! Did he watch the Guess Guess Guess show to come up with this weird incantation?

TL: Here's the show. It's a fun show from Taiwan!

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guess_\(variety_show\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guess_(variety_show))

"Hold on a sec. You are a wizard, right? Can you... conjure up some food?"

Merlin expression is that of surprise, and so is Lin Ling's. To think that such a smart idea can come from her!

"Of course. What do you want?"

Merlin held out his hand in preparation of his magic and said,

"Anything but eggs."

Merlin muttered the spell, magical wisp appeared from his hand. Then, out of thin air, a basket of bread appeared, with a plate of steaming, hot barbequed meat.

"I have said what I have come to say. I will return in 3 days. I hope to see both of you alive then."

"Wait a minute! I have a question... How can you speak Chinese so fluently?"

Lin Ling noticed this disparity just a moment ago.

"Ah, that's because this is the Chinese version of the game..."

TL: LMAO so if I enter this game world, I'm still screwed.

Merlin's reply slowly faded with the wind, as his silhouette too

disappear as though it was never there.

"Hey..."

She nudged the lion next to her. Even before the evil spirits reach here, the lion would probably think of her as snack.

The lion named Leo growled and moved slowly towards Lin Ling. Alarmed by Leo's sudden change, Lin Ling stiffened with fear. Merlin is no longer here. She is now alone with this lion who at any moment...

"No... Don't come..."

Lin Ling feels dread for the first time, and tears begin to well up. Why did this happen to me? Is my bad luck rearing its ugly head again?

Suddenly, the lion jumped at her. However, Leo did not attack her but instead, affectionately rubbed his head against her while purring like a kitty.

"Ah Hua..."

Lin Ling then fondly remembered her beloved dog who was taken away by her parents. She stroke Leo's head in return and said,

"I'll call you Ah Hua, okay?"

Leo growled as if to reply. (Leo: I do not want such a bad name!)

"You like it? Alright, from now on your name is Ah Hua."

Lin Ling forgot her fears and smiled gently at Ah Hua.

(Leo: No no noooooo, I don't want this nameeee! T_T)

"Wow, you like it that much? You are so touched till tears are coming out."

Lin Ling continued patting his head.

"Silly cat, hehe..."

(Leo: T_T.....)

The day grows dark. The moon too now hangs in the sky. The moonlight shone down on our duo, giving a eerie atmosphere to their task at hand. The wind blew through the trees, making noises even a brave man would fear. As the night stills, hootings can be heard from the forest.

Lin Ling sat near Ah Hua, clutching the invincible racket given to her by Merlin. She is alert to all noises, ready to speak the words and use the racket in her hands.

CRASH!

A dark silhoutte appeared next to her. She jumped up in shock and readied to beat it down, only to find a bat struggling to raise his wings. She patted her chest and sighed in relief. She sat back down and returned to her previous state. The forest is alive with nocturnal creatures activites, and Lin Ling is honestly scared witless. If she can go home now, she would rather listen to her mother's nagging than this! As she think of her mother, she thought of her

homecooked food, her warm bed, her favourite ice cream still waiting for her in the freezer, and her friends...

Why, why am I so unlucky?!

Lin Ling is afraid. Since young, she has never camped outside, not to mention in a dark forest with evil spirits! Unable to hold it in any longer, she let her tears gush out like a faucet.

Ah Hua was surprised by Lin Ling's crying, but he merely wagged his tail before going back to sleep. After a long session of crying, Lin Ling is finally tired of it. She leaned on Ah Hua's furry body and dozed off.

TL Note: Annnnnd done! Phew. From Leo to Ah Hua, haha!

Chapter 5 - The candy house's witch

The morning breeze made its way to the forest, a gentle breeze unlike the night. Sunlight too, shone down to invite the forest of their benign inhabitants. As the warmth seep through the green foliage, birds chirp to greet the new day.

TL: I reworded A LOT. Here's the original text.

清晨的风徐徐吹来，细碎的光线从云缝漏下来，林子里的一切开始渐渐明朗。浅金色的阳光轻快的游走，
最后在高高的树顶上停留。浓绿茂密的枝叶不留一点空隙，
层层叠叠的叶片仿佛可以流出汁来。林子里传来婉转的鸟叫声，显得一派祥和宁静。

Lin Ling awoke, as Ah Hua's tail continued to brush against her. I dozed off! In a hurry, she glanced at Ah Hua, just to find him barely awake as well. She sighed with relief. Strange... Could there really be no attacks from these evil spirits yesterday? Do they not exist at all? Did Merlin... lied to her?

Just like that, Lin Ling relied on the food Merlin left her and Ah Hua. In a blink of an eye, it is now the third day. In just these few days, Lin Ling feels as close to Leo as her previous Ah Hua. She no longer fears the lion. One more night to go... She consoled herself with this thought. The day soon turn to night, and Lin Ling is now on full alert. It would seem that tonight is the night those evil spirits will come. Her fears turn to reality as she heard a loud buzzing sound approaching the duo. She jumped in fear and hid behind Ah Hua. From the back of her protective lion, she saw a mass of dark cloud moving towards them.

She feels a strong urge to push her glasses up, just to find it

not there! Huh? Her glasses are not there? Is this because of this game?

Ah Hua becomes more restless and growled at the dark cloud. The buzzing grows louder as they approach Ah Hua. Lin Ling was soon greeted with the full view of this cloud of evil spirit.

They are flies!

No wonder Merlin gave her a racket to slap them away, she thought. Seeing that the flies are the so-called evil spirit, she is no longer afraid. After all, who is, seeing how small these flies are? (*TL: Intentional.*) She clutched her racket hard and made a swatting motion towards a nearby fly.

"Haha!"

The fly actually laughed! Upon closer inspection, the flies all have... a face! Lin Ling screamed at this newly found revelation. She threw the racket aside in surprise and ran. Before she even got far, Lin Ling heard Ah Hua's pitiful cries as he desperately tries to defend himself. She stopped in her tracks and remembered Merlin's words. That's right, they were aiming for Ah Hua, not me! She glanced at Ah Hua to see his bloodied body fighting a lost battle.

I'm... I'm sorry, Ah Hua... But I'm scared! Her legs are shivering with fear as she apologised profusely to the lion in her heart.

If I don't go... Ah Hua will... What do I do...?

If Ah Hua dies, this is just a game, right? It should be fine...

Ah Hua whimpers and looked towards Lin Ling, his eyes

desperately seeking for help.

Ah Hua...

She took a deep breath several times. Readied herself, and bit her lower lips. It's now or never! Her hand moved towards the tossed racket, just to find her path blocked by a fly instead. (?) She steeled herself, and with the fastest motion she can muster, took the racket back.

TL: 阿花.....她深深呼吸了几下,一咬牙,终于还是冲了回去,想去捡地上的拍子,可是拍子的把手上却停着一只样子狰狞的精灵,她犹豫了一下,闭上眼睛,用最快的速度抢回了那把拍子。

As soon as she reclaimed the racket, the fly begin gnawing at her hands in anger.

It hurts!

She could not help but exclaim out loud. But now is not the time to cry. She could only swat the evil spirits while continuously chanting *I hit, I hit, I hit hit hit!* The racket is indeed an invincible racket. Like a powerful talisman, even these flies can not stand up to its blinding power. One by one, the evil spirit falls to the ground. As they did, balls of light entered Lin Ling's body. Seeing their brethren fell one by one, the evil spirits soon panicked and retreated. As they flee the site, Lin Ling breathe a sigh of relief. Her body is tired. Now that the danger is gone, she touched her forehead to wipe off the cold sweat. Lin Ling thought, to think that I beat them all! This is an amazing feat.

"Ah Hua, it's okay now."

Lin Ling patted Ah Hua's head. Ah Hua affectionately licked her

wounded hands and whimpered softly. Though her hands are wounded, she is still excited from the adrenaline rush. This time, I did not run. In these 16 years, she had done nothing but running from her problems. This may be the first time ever for her, and probably, the last as well.

If the same situation ever happened, she doubt she'll ever do the same again.

Let it be the last time... The last time ever.

Sigh, I'm sleepy. (?)

The next time she opened her eyes, she saw Merlin in front of her, smiling happily. Seeing how Lin Ling is barely awake, Merlin's smile turned to a chuckle.

"You did well. Though not as good as I expected."

"Merlin!"

She stood up in a rush and said,

"I did as you wanted. Can you bring me to Arthur now?"

"Of course. I am here to bring you to him, after all."

Merlin pointed to the lion.

"From now on, he belongs to you."

"Me?"

She blinked at Merlin.

"Wouldn't a lion attract a lot of attention?" (?) TL: 一头狮子跟着我 会不会太拉风了?

"Do not worry."

Merlin plucked a few hairs from the lion's mane.

"He does not need to follow you. Call his name three times, and he will appear in front of you."

"Really?"

Lin Ling took the hair from Merlin and store it in her pocket. She patted the lion's head in the process.

"Looks like I'm your master now, Ah Hua."

".... What did you call him?"

Merlin's expression turned to a difficult one to read.

"Ah Hua. He likes this name!"

"....."

The forest seem to glow in tandem with the sunlight. Flowers are in full bloom, a sweet fragrance embraced the forest's air. Birds and squirrels alike chirped and hopped from one branch to another. These curious inhabitants of the lush foliage peeked their heads every so often at the two foreign visitors to their home.

TL: Sigh more flowery words.

森林里流动着浅金色的阳光，不知名的野花盛开在林中，散发着淡淡的清香，小鸟欢快的在枝头鸣叫，毛茸茸的松鼠们出没在繁茂的枝叶间，好奇的看着闯入森林里的不速之客，几头受了惊的小鹿，迅速的从灌木丛后跳了出来，又极快的奔进了密林深处。融融的草没有边际，向森林深处蔓延开，整个的森林摇曳着迷离的绿色。

If Lin Ling is not in a game world, she would surely stop to admire the view. Alas, right now, she could think of nothing but eggs, eggs and eggs.

I need eggs to go home... To think that even eggs can be cute to me....

"How do I deal with the witch?" She asked Merlin.

"You'll know once you are there."

Merlin smiled in reply.

"It is still early now, but once night reaches, the candy house will reveal itself."

"A candy house? Is that where Arthur is?"

Merlin smiled without a word.

Time flowed, and evening came. They now stood in front of a beautiful lake filled with lotus in bloom. The green lotus leaves cover the lake, and the petals soon fall as quickly as they bloomed. The petals fall slowly, and gently, creating ripples in this still lake.

TL: AAAAAH

大而厚实的莲叶散发着浓浓的绿意，互相摩擦后立刻分开，花瓣犹如白绢般

润泽柔软，弥漫着一种透明清新的气息。柔润的莲花瓣飘落在浮萍上，缓慢地，一点点沉进水里，在一圈圈的涟漪中，催生出一一种温柔的哀怨。

Merlin stopped in his tracks, and gazed at the lake with a melancholic expression. It was a fleeting expression that is quickly replaced with a normal one. Nevertheless, Lin Ling was quick enough to catch it. Strange, she thought.

"Is the candy house nearby?"

The walking has made her tipsy for action.

"Go straight from here and you'll see the house."

He tilted his head and smiled his usual smile.

"The candy house is not a house in name alone, but a house made entirely of candy. They all belong to the witch Lena, which she gets from turning human into one. Even a prince cannot escape from her jinx. Lena likes her candy so if you were to gift her one, she too will exchange a candy of hers for yours."

"What? Even the prince turned to a candy? Then how can I find Arthur?"

Lin Ling's face paled once more at this impossible task. How does she find a prince in a house made of candy and full of it?

"It is up to you to find it. But know this, the more noble the person's bloodline is, the tastier the candy will be. Thus, the said candy will be the most important one to the witch. You should be able to identify the prince with all these clues."

"Can I... give up? I'm just a normal high school girl! I can't do

this!"

She sighed heavily. Even the name "witch" brings shudders to Lin Ling.

"You have yet to try, and you are already giving up? Are you the same as you are now in the real world?"

Merlin smiled faintly at Lin Ling.

Lin Ling felt downcasted by Merlin's comments. She spoke not words, but thoughts...

That's right. There hasn't been any changes to her at all since she arrived. Like a snail, at the smallest hint of danger, she will retract back to her shell.

"You'll never know unless you tried. Did you not defeated the evil spirits bravely last night alone? You saved Ah... Ah... "

Merlin tried his best to pronounce Ah Hua's new name, but he cannot bring himself to even mutter the ghastly name.

Lin Ling is confused. Her head's a mess. She has no choice but to enter the candy house, save the prince and return to the castle. Only then can she find eggs to go back home.

"What kind of candy does she like?"

Lin Ling raised her head slowly, and looked at Merlin.

Merlin's eyes show a tinge of delight at her courage, and smiled.

"I will give you one. What candy do you want?"

What candy should she ask for? She scrapped at the surface of her memories, of a delightful candy anyone would want. Her bulb went eureka as she found a match. She often eat that candy in the past, and its really good!

"Ah, yes. I need to tell you something. Remember, do not eat any candy from there. Otherwise, you'll join her collection as well."

TL Note: Chapter 5 Done! I'll do the next chapter soon. I hope.

Chapter 6 - King Arthur, a fated meeting

Lin Ling walks towards the candy house under the dim moonlight. The forest is stiller than it was before. The quietness of the night fills Lin Ling with dread. Even more so with the cold wind breezing past the trees. It was a long 10 minute walk to her destination. She kept her chin up, and looked for a source of light, a sure tell-tale of the house in which she saw at last. She pushed aside the branches barring her line of sight, and froze in awe.

In front of her very eyes, there stood a house made of candy of every imaginable colours! The roof, windows, walls, and even the chimney is made of candy. This candy house gives off a fairy tale-like architecture fit for a fantasy world, similar to that of a house made of crystal. The moonlight too, lend to this effect. The lunar light shines down onto the structure, giving it a jewel-like shine, tempting even those who view it from afar.

A beautiful house indeed, she thought. But now is the time of action. She took a deep breath, clenched the candy in her hands tightly, confirming the held contents. She then took the first steps towards the door emblazoned in red.

As soon as she stood close to the door, a waft of sweet smelling strawberry breezed past her nostrils. It was tantalizing, to the point that many would not object to have a bite of the door. Before she lose her senses, she remembered Merlin's warning. She snapped out of her fantasy, and told herself there is no way she will be candified.

"Good evening dear visitor... Are you lost in the forest? Come in for a cup of tea."

A gentle voice from the other side of the door greeted Lin Ling, and with it, the door creaked open to welcome her. Lin Ling's heartbeat rate increased, and she almost forgot to breath. Her very first thought is being greeted by an ugly witch. She's come this far. She might as well finish this task.

She stepped into the house and walked into the living room with heavy feet.

Lin Ling half-expected an ugly witch but instead of a witch...

No, a kind and chubby grandmother happily greets our heroine.

"Sweet child, you must be tired. Have a candy, it'll soothe your tired legs."

Lena, the witch, showed Lin Ling to a stack of candies on the table.

Oh please, who would if you will turn into one.

"Thank you for the offer, grandma. But I only eat the best and special candy there is."

Lin Ling placed the candy in her hand onto the table.

"Oh? A special candy?"

Lena leaned forward, clearly interested at the candy on the table. Her blue eyes now twinkling with greed.

"If you don't believe me, you can try."

As she says this, Lin Ling's hand trembled as she slowly opened

her pocket. She prayed in her heart,

Calm down, calm down, don't let that witch see through your act...

Lena happily accepted Lin Ling's offer, and swallowed Merlin's conjured candy. She chewed it slowly, revelling in its sweetness.

"Ahhh~ So soft and sweet! It's melting... Just like cotton candy!"

Lin Ling can't help but chuckle at the witch's comment. It IS cotton candy!

"What a delicacy! This is the first I've eaten such a candy. Good child, please choose a candy from this room as an exchange for the candy I just ate."

Lin Ling relaxed a little. Her first objective coming here has been achieved.

"Sure. But I wish to choose my own candy. Is that okay?"

Lena hesitated, but quickly nodded to Lin Ling's request.

"Yes, of course."

Lin Ling stood up, and looked around the room. The walls are filled to the brim with fruit flavoured candies. It's almost like a simple puzzle game to determine their flavour. From the fruity scent and colours, Lin Ling slowly picked out the flavours. Green is a green apple candy, the blue one is a blueberry flavoured, red for strawberries, orange coloured for oranges and purple for grapes.

Which candy is the prince?

Arthur = Apple flavoured candy = Orange flavoured candy = Strawberry flavoured candy???

Where is this prince?! This formula appeared as she tries to make sense of the candy-prince connection.

"The prince is the witch's most valuable prize among her candies. You should be able to reach the answer with all the clues given."

Merlin's words echoed in her thoughts as she desperately cracked her head at the clues.

"Grandma, there's a lot of flavours here. Which one is your favourite?"

"Me? I like apples the most." Lena blurted out in a heartbeat.

Apple? The colour of that candy is green. As she looked around the room, she noticed that there are less green coloured candies than the rest. When Lin Ling traced the room for green-coloured candies, Lena quickly said,

"Oh no, I made a mistake. I like strawberry flavoured candies the most."

From the corner of Lin Ling's eyes, Lena seems confused and flustered at her candy choice. Lin Ling thought awhile, and tried moving her hand away from the green candy. Lena then gave a relieved smile.

Looks like the prince is indeed turned into a green apple flavoured candy.

But... which one is it?

"I think I'll choose a green apple flavoured candy."

Lena's face changed slightly at Lin Ling's proclamation. Just like that, Lin Ling found an interesting way to test her theory.

Lin Ling took her sweet time to approach each green candy there is, reaching out her hand and peeking at Lena's expression every so often. Lena remained calm, and no visible change in her expression as Lin Ling continued her browsing. It was only at the fourth green candy, that Lena showed a slight panicked reaction. As Lin Ling's hands reached out towards the said candy, her smile twitched slightly, but it is enough for Lin Ling to catch. Lin Ling then moved her hand away slowly from the candy, and voila, Lena return to her relieved smile.

Lin Ling heartbeat rate increased at this revelation. If she is not wrong, then this is it. Jackpot!

"Child, are you done?"

Lena impatiently pushed Lin Ling to hurry it up.

"Yes, I'll take this one."

Lin Ling quickly snatched the green candy she has previously selected from the wall. Lena's face paled at her actions, and her sweet, motherly face turned into a revolting one.

"YOU CANNOT TAKE THAT CANDY!"

Lena turned into a terrifying figure fitting for a witch, and rushed towards Lin Ling with a scream.

Lin Ling screamed too, and tries to leave with the green candy at hand. (?) Before the witch reaches Lin Ling, a bag of cotton candy (?) expanded greatly. It wraps itself around Lena, restricting her movements, before it swallows her whole. A shimmering figure then flew to Lin Ling's side. (?)

Lin Ling can only stood frozen at the scene. Suddenly, the green candy was snatched from her hands. Stunned at this, Lin Ling raised her head to look at the perpetrator.

It was Merlin!

"You did well."

Merlin casually smiled at Lin Ling, and muttered a spell. The green candy in Merlin's hand then swirled in a cloud of white mist. The mist expanded, and from within, a silhoutte of a person can be seen.

At a glance, the figure is that of a 7 or 8 year old boy. His blonde hair glisten like that of a sun. The boy's long eyelashes slowly flickered to reveal a pair of violet eyes. *TL: Boyfriend material!*

His eyes were fixed on Merlin. He uttered,

"Master..."

TL: He says shifu which YLing translates as Teacher, but Master is so much better.

Huh? Lin Ling tilted her head. Can someone tell her what's going on?!

The delicate boy standing in front of her, is 'THE' famous King Arthur?!

"Um, Merlin? You are his Master, right? So that's make him King Arthur, correct?"

She needs to confirm her suspicion.

"You must call him Arthur for now. He has yet to be king."

Merlin replied Lin Ling, and looked at Arthur.

"Be thankful to Lin Ling. She is the one who saved you."

"Her?"

Arthur raised his head to look at his saviour, and showed a look of disdain.

"You mean this rascal?"

TL: He called her a mischievous person. But... But... for now it's rascal.

Excuse me? You are the rascal here! Lin Ling angrily stared back at Arthur.

"Hehe..."

Merlin chuckled at Lin Ling's action. *TL: HE KNOWS!*

"Arthur, the one you call rascal now, will be your most

invaluable subordinate
in the future."

TL: HE DEFINITELY KNOWS!

"Pffft. What can she help me with?"

He stared down at Lin Ling.

"I do not need this woman's help."

TL: Original line sounds more sexist. It says I don't need a woman's help.

"If it's not for me, you'll still be a candy!"

Lin Ling can not help but whisper back her reply.

"What did you say?!"

Arthur scowled back at her.

She blinked in shock. To think that a 7 year old can have such sharp eyes.

"Enough. We will now return to Lord Acre's castle. The Count must have been worried about you."

Merlin waved his hand, and thus appeared a horse-drawn carriage in front of them.

TL: 林零也扭过了头, 不想再理他, 正想招呼默林上马车的时候, 忽然无意中
发现默林和那个被棉花糖缠住的莱娜之间交换了一个眼神。

他们两个是认识的.....她的脑中闪过了这样的念头。 *No idea what this one says): Help?*

"Hey. Tell me your name!" As they get onboard the carriage, Arthur arrogantly asked the girl.

TL: It sounded arrogant in Chinese lmao. How do you snobbishly asked someone's name...?

"Lin Ling." She snapped back.

"Weird name."

"Hmph." Lin Ling jerked her head and refused to look at him.

The carriage travelled slowly on the forest trail. After an eon or so, the trees thinned and the trail soon turned to a road. The sky soon opens up, the forest now no longer within their reach, and the view is replaced with a rustic countryside. The wheat gently swayed to the wind's embrace. Flowers of all colours line the road side. It is evident that the season is now summer.

From Arthur's and Merlin's conversation, Lin Ling can now somewhat form a general idea of Arthur's recent plight. For unknown reasons, Count Acre's son fought with Arthur, and Arthur ran away from the castle. He stumbled into the witch's candy house in the forest. Due to his negligence, he was candified.

This is also the beginning of the game...

It seems that only Merlin knew that this is a fantasy world from a game. What role does he play in this world? Whichever role he takes, it is certain that he is no ordinary NPC.

"Master, why are her clothes so strange?"

Arthur pointed at her.

"Are my clothes that strange?"

Lin Ling then looked down at her clothes at his comment. She almost fainted from what she saw!

She is still wearing her pink pajama with a pig logo!

"This is a first... Seeing someone's pig coat of arms."

He sneered at the thought.

"This is not my family's coat of arms, you rascal!"

In front of Arthur, she finds it hard to retreat back to her shell.

"Really? I think it suits you fine."

She bit her sleeves in frustration, pushing back her urge to yell at that rascal.

Is this kid really the famous King Arthur?! *TL: Yes he is.*

Merlin watched as they bicker back and forth. He smiled lazily at the scene.

However, his blue, enigmatic eyes showed otherwise...

TL Note: A little struggle at that one paragraph but YEAAA!
Another chapter done. I'll try releasing the next chapter in awhile.

Chapter 7 - This is a real castle!

Count Ector's castle is a splendid European edifice. It stood on a rocky mountain plateau, surrounded by green hills. The scenery only serves to adorn the castle's majestic structure. In the crystal clear moat, a swan can be seen gracefully enjoying her swim. Although Lin Ling is used to seeing European medieval castles in movies, seeing a real castle in person is much more shocking and awe-inspiring. It feels her with a sense of adventurous excitement.

This place is a genuine castle...

As she crossed the moat with Arthur and Merlin, the sight of the vast garden made her gasp in surprise. The olde castle stood proud, embraced by the morning rays gave it a wondrous presence. It is a picturesque scene fitting for a fairy-tale like world.

TL: Phew. Basically, nice castle.

爱克伦伯爵的城堡坐落在群山环抱之中，矗立在石山高原上，鸟瞰四周缓缓起伏的树林，幽静的自然景色与城堡雄伟的外貌相互辉映。清澈见底的护城河中，游弋着姿态优雅的白天鹅。虽然在电影里看到过欧洲中世纪的城堡，但那种平面的效果，自然没有亲眼所见来的震撼。林零望着眼前那座雄伟的城堡，心里忽然涌起了一种莫名的激动。

是城堡诶，货真价实的中世纪城堡.....

当林零随着默林和亚瑟经过护城河时，所看见的一切令她暗暗惊叹，在一望无边的花园中，整座古堡被笼罩在淡淡的晨雾里，典雅又不失自然风采，恍若处在一种如梦似幻的仙境中。

<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/6f/Caerlaver>

"Merlin. Is Arthur with you?"

A brown-haired man in his 40s rushed out to greet the party. With his side, a child similar to Arthur's age accompanied him. The boy wears a stubborn expression on his face.

TL: I struggled here. Look. A nice, simple sentence. Yet I struggled. Because in Chinese, the author expressed it as this: http://images6.fanpop.com/image/answers/541000/541860_14 but the literal text is the boy's eyebrows shows his stubbornness. ... um, what?

"Count Ector, you do not need to worry any longer."

Merlin smile gently, and Arthur appeared from Merlin's shadow.

Count Ector sighed with relief, and turned to face the stubborn-looking boy.

"Kay, apologise to Arthur now! If it's not for you picking a fight, Arthur wouldn't have either!"

Kay? Lin Ling felt a sense of familiarity with this name. Ah, he is Count Ector's son.

Kay took a step forward, kept quiet for some time before muttering a soft apology.

"I'm sorry!"

Arthur simply turned his head and refused to look at Kay.

Annoyed by his silence, Kay snapped at him in anger.

"I said apologised to you already! What else do you want?! Are my words wrong then? If His Majesty loved you, he would not have abandoned you here!"

Arthur lifted his head to glare at Kay. His eyes reveal that of a dangerous, sharp glint that can easily petrify the other party.

"Kay! Shut your mouth right now!"

Count Ector shouted at Kay at his outburst. He rubbed his temples too soothe his headache at these two children. Only when he looked elsewhere, that he noticed Lin Ling standing sheepishly with Merlin.

"This young lady is...?"

"Ah, it is thanks to this girl's help that I am able to save Arthur. I have already decided to accept her as my disciple. Count Ector, if it is alright, please allow this girl to stay in this castle."

Merlin gestured towards his new disciple.

"Of, of course! But this young lady... seems to be of a different race?" TL: He said it like she's an alien in Chinese LMAO

"Correct. But, she will bring us good luck." Merlin smiled at his words.

From doubt to a more trusting expression, Count Ector broke into a smile hearing the wizard's words.

"If Merlin said so, then there is no problem. You must be hungry. Come in and have breakfast with us!"

Lin Ling kept quiet as the two adults talked. Is it me, or did the Count seem to be afraid of Merlin?

Hm? Wait, wait, wait! Did the Count say breakfast? Hurray! Then there must be eggs!

As her eyes sweep through the grand breakfast laid on the table, she fought back a strong impulse to hit someone.

Laid on the cherry wood, long table are a jug of milk, oatmeals, bread, meat... and no eggs.

Why... What is this?!

Although she is depressed at this outcome, she dared not speak out loud to arouse Merlin's suspicion. If she does, then it'll be harder to return to her former world. Lin Ling swallowed her words and ate her breakfast instead.

As soon as she does, she noticed something very strange.

Other than a plate and a knife, there seems to be no other cutlery on the table.

Huh? Where's the fork? She peeked around the table. Lin Ling saw the rest of the occupants are cutting the meat with the given knife while using the water-filled tray to wash their hands. They then eat the meat with their hands.

She shivered at her thought. Could it be... That fork has yet to be invented?

As she come in terms to this revelation, Lin Ling noticed that Count Ector is watching both Arthur and Kay's cutting posture.

"Kay, you should cut up your meat more evenly. Look at how Arthur does it."

Kay nodded at his father's comment, and carefully attempt to cut the meat again.

"Cutting meat is also a knight's skill."

Merlin whispered into her ear.

Looks like the road to be a knight is not an easy one. Lin Ling recovered from her culture shock and thought, if that is what it takes to get an egg, I'll bear with it. When in Britain, do as the British does!

She then tried to cut the meat like how it is supposed to be done. Alas, she rarely used a knife in this fashion. She tried and tried, but the meat on her plate refused to be cut.

After N times, the meat is still whole. (TL: It says N times, not me!)

The golden-haired occupant who sat in front of her showed a mocking smile.

She huffed, and raised her strength up a notch. The meat she desperately tries to cut then flew from her plate with a BIU sound effect, and impressively, landed on Arthur's left eye with a slap. TL: Haha, you know how when rockets fly, they have this sound effect of biuuuu~

The winter wind seem to blow at the table. It was eerily cold. Everyone kept silent and continued their breakfast. Arthur's forehead vein popped (?) while Kay tried his hardest to not laugh.

After a stiffling moment, Arthur calmly picked up his natural eye

mask and put it on the table. He continued eating as if nothing has happened.

"I'm... I'm sorry..." She only said these three words before Arthur did his killing glare.

She quickly turned her head to avoid those eyes and saw Kay's instead. He winked at her and revealed his dazzling smile at her.

Lin Ling smiled in return as well. Arthur sighed softly, and Lin Ling reflexively turned back to look at him. His lips wordlessly formed the word "pig". Seeing how mad she is at this, Arthur smiled mockingly.

Once he has finished his meal, Merlin put down his knife and asked,

"Speaking of which, where is the Countess? I did not see her today?"

"Ah, she went to Marquess David's territory to visit her cousin. She will be back in a few days."

As he spoke of this, Count wiped his lips gently with a white napkin. To an aristocrat, it is manners to wipe one's lips gently and not roughly.

Lin Ling took the chance when they weren't looking, and wiped her lips quickly with her napkin. If she were to wipe gently like them, she don't think her lips will ever be clean!

After they concluded the first meal of the day, Merlin brought Lin Ling to tour the castle. The place is actually a really large

complex. It has a master bedroom, the maid's chamber, wine brewing area, kitchen, bakery, wine cellar, warehouse, stable, barn and even fish ponds. TL: 这座城堡其实是一个大片的建筑群, 包括城堡主人的居室、妇女工作室、厨房、面包房、榨酒房、仓库、牲口棚、磨房、酒窖, 甚至还有鱼塘。

As soon as they reached the stable, Merlin stopped. The horses kept in the stable are of good quality. Each horse's coat are well-cared for.

"You will stay here for now. Until Arthur becomes king, this will be your home."

"What? But he's still 7 years old? Does that mean I need to stay in this game world for many years?!"

"This is a fantasy world, Lin Ling." He smiled.

"You should be happy that you are in one. Which lucky girl can live in two worlds other than you? Moreover, both worlds' time flow differently. The time here is faster than your former world. Once you have completed your missions here, the time in your world will not have changed much."

"Lucky? I'm think I'm the world's most unluckiest girl..." Lin Ling whispered softly.

"I will now tell you the basics of this world." While he told Lin Ling his intentions, Merlin petted a nearby pony's mane, which the pony responded by licking his hand intimately.

"In this world, the aristocrats send their sons to be a knight once they have reached a certain age. The father would entrust them to another aristocrat family, where their sons will endure

harsh training to be a true knight. Learning social etiquette befitting of a noble are part of the training. The Countess is usually entrusted with this whereas the art of war is entrusted to the Count.

Horsemanship and weapons training... The Count has entrusted these two trainings to me instead."

"What does this got to do with me?"

Lin Ling could not help but interrupt Merlin's speech.

"Of course it has everything to do with you. Starting tomorrow, you'll be joining the training."

"WHAT?!" She yelled out in surprise. Oh please, I am just a high school student! Why do I need to train to be a knight?!

Merlin has already anticipated her reaction.

"Remember, this is a game world. You have to train to level up to make it easier to help King Arthur in his quest for the Holy Grail. If you do not do anything, then why do you even play this game?"

"Aaaaaa~" She can feel her mood flew out of the coop, and she sat down at a wooden bench. She wants an egg really bad now.

"You should understand your situation now."

Merlin turned to walk away, only to turn back and say,

"By the way, you are sitting on bird poop."

"AAAH!" Lin Ling jumped up in shock and touched her bottom.

Her hand is dripping with a sticky, warm goo.

TL: Okay, it sounds weird. I mean, the Chinese text didn't say what she touched. Don't think of anything else at this sentence! She just touched the bird poo she sat on!!

"Hahaha~..." His laugh disappear along with his figure, echoing in the air.

Why am I so unlucky... Lin Lin decided to walk back to the castle and suddenly, thought of the barn she passed by during the tour with Merlin. Her eyes light up as she banked on the chance there may be chickens in there. If there's chickens, then there should be eggs as well.

Happy with this thought of hers, she rushed towards the barn without changing her dirty clothes.

TL Note: If you want me to improve on anything or I translated wrongly, tell me in the comments. It's all a learning process :)

Chapter 8 - Eggs! I want eggs!

Woooo~ It's chicken time! Enjoyed Chapter 120, 121 and 122? Hah! Me too! Sure is nice seeing things illustrated :D Well, here's your next chapter!

The chicken coop is filled with its inhabitants' squawkings. Some of the fowls looked dazed, some minded their own business and scurried about. The air is afoul with chicken ~~poop~~/shit manure. Lin Ling pinched her nose as she carefully chose where she tread. Her eyes busily scanned for her ticket to return home.

"Hey, what are you doing in here?"

As she was engrossed in her search, Arthur's quizzical voice appeared from her back. *(TL: I swear, this author like to use 'voice appeared from her back...')*

"Looking for eggs..."

She replied casually.

"Eggs?"

Arthur raised his eyebrows.

"I do not know why, but hens do not lay eggs during this time period."

"Whaaaaaat?!"

Lin Ling yelped at this news. Surprised at this, she slipped and fell into a stack of hay. Lin Ling struggled to push herself back up, only to feel her hands came in contact with a gooey substance. She merely looked at her defiled hands, and the corner of her lips twitched in disgust.

She really is an incredible case of bad luck!

Arthur's eyes showed a flash of ridicule at the girl.

"I find it unbelievable that you'll be a boon to me in the future, like Merlin said."

Lin Ling find herself angered at his remark. Who would want to come to this fantasy world anyway?! There's no books, no television, not even a computer! I have to eat with my hands too! I was brought to this place without my consent! I want to go home! I want to leave this boorish place...

Her heart ached at the thought. Unable to control her feelings, she let it all out. She wailed all the while muttering an incomprehensible string of words.

"I want to go home! *sniffles* I miss mum and dad! I want to go

back to my world... Away from this ghastly place... *sniffles*"

In this dirty chicken coop, a girl now sits within a mess of haystacks and chicken manure, bawling her eyes out. Even Arthur find this situation somewhat hilarious. However, upon hearing that she wishes to go home, Arthur's expression became somewhat complicated.

"Don't cry! Even I was sent here by my father! Aren't you old enough to leave your parent's side already?"

Lin Ling ignored him and continued to weep.

"You are such a crybaby! Keep crying then! I do not need a crybaby as my aide!"

Arthur's tone is clearly not happy at Lin Ling's continous weeping.

"Can't I even cry in peace here..."

She sobbed at his tone.

"No. Now that you are here, you must accept the situation. Even if you are a woman, be a brave one."

As he said this, his demeanor did not match his outer appearance. It was a matured air, unbecfitting of the 7 year old

boy.

She sobbed and raised her head to look at the boy, then whispered to him.

"Hey rascal... Do you have a handkerchief?"

"No."

He frowned.

"You are so stingy! If it's not for me, you'll still be a fruit candy!"

Her reply quickly faded, as a white embroidered handkerchief flew to her side, accompanied by Arthur's voice.

"Don't you dare mention it again!"

She took the handkerchief while staring at the back of the boy as he leaves the area. Her mood now feels much better than before.

With a maid's help, Lin Ling took a bath and put on a clean dress. Perhaps it has something to do with her previous situation, she still feels as if her body still stinks of that chicken coop. She turned to talk to the maid, only to find her wistfully looking out the window.

Following the maid's line of sight, Lin Ling saw Merlin with his eyes closed. His face serene, the wind gently whipped his sea blue hair. *(TL: I get it author-san, he's all blue! Stop mentioning how blue he is!!)*

As though noticing eyes on him, his eye lids flickered open, revealing an equally stunning blue eyes. He returned the maid's stare, almost causing her to faint on the spot. Lin Ling too, felt heat rushing to her face.

Just who is this mysterious Merlin?

Soon, it's dinnertime.

During the medieval ages, dinnertime is an important meal to European aristocrats. However, there are not many dishes available even to an upper class family. This era currently lacks a plethora of seasoning. The common ones include cabbages, onions, garlicks, and parsley/celery. Even an aristocrat family have the most common of dishes available in this era; potatoes, barbecued meat, bacon, spinach, lettuce and other vegetables.

Lin Ling peeked at the dinner table's occupants. Everyone is quietly picking at their own plate. Merlin too, is eating his plate's spinach graciously with a quiet smile plastered on his face. Seeing such a handsome man eating his vegetables with only his hands brought on a complicated feeling to Lin Ling. The corner of her lips twitched at this scene.

Looks like before she go back to her world, she must somehow create a pair of chopstick or a fork. Else, she'll be eating with her hands all day long! The thought of this made her really upset.

She took a large bite from a piece of bread. Lin Ling then noticed braised pork, complete with pig ears and intestines. During the European medieval ages, every part of the pig is not wasted. *TL: 忽然有发现那一大盆炖猪肉里还有猪耳和内脏, 原来在当时的中世纪, 欧洲人也是几乎会吃尽动物每一部分的。*

After finishing her bread, she began cutting the pork meat on her plate. Remembering this morning's incident, she did the task carefully.

Unfortunately, the chef chose to give her a plate of pig ears instead which impressively, refuse to yield to Lin Ling's careful slicing. Lin Ling then tried to add more strength to it.

Once again, she heard the "biu" sound and the pig ear she was desperately cutting flew up and high. Shocked, the first thing she did was to look at Arthur who was sitting opposite to her. Seeing that his face is safe, she sighed with relief.

Phew, thank God...

At least she missed. As soon as she thought of this, she raised her head to look at him again, and froze on the spot.

Well, it's true that his face is spared. But what of the extra slab of meat on his head?

She felt a sudden chill run down her back. Could it be...?

Merlin grinned, and Kay could not hold back his laughter.

Arthur calmly wiped his hands, and removed his "hat". He put it aside and continued eating as though nothing had happened.

"I'm sorry... I really did not mean it..."

Annoyed, Arthur stared at her. Lin Ling shuddered. His stare is really scary...

"If there is a third time..."

Arthur suddenly spoke up.

"You'll regret it."

Only God knows how regretful she is. But, she regret playing this game the most!

Lin Ling managed to survive through dinnertime, quickly left the dining hall and visited the garden for a breather.

TL: Oh god here comes the decorative words.

The layout of the garden is fairly simple. White stones are piled in a manner that adorns the ground, surrounded by different types of flowers. The moon shone down on roses and tulips alike. In the very center of the garden, stood a cherry tree. Cherries still hang from it's branches, the summer breeze blow past the leaves, causing the leaves to rustle in the wind.

She could not help but extend her hand out to pluck the cherries. Just as she almost did that, a young boy's voice appeared from her back.

"My mother planted that tree."

Startled, she turned her body just to see a brown haired boy standing behind her.

"I'm sorry, I did not know..."

"It's okay. If you want to, just take some."

Kay revealed a hearty smile.

"You said your name is Lin Ling?"

As soon as he said this, Kay's eyes glinted with curiosity.

"You look so different from us! Black hair and black eyes, this

is the first I've seen it!"

*Seeing that he is only ** years old (TL: The ** is also from the raws.), moreover he is more easy to talk to compared to Arthur, she replied casually as well.*

"That's because I'm from a foreign country."

"A foreign country?"

Kay got even more curious from her answer.

"Can you tell me about your country?"

"Yes, of course..."

Lin Ling sat at the foot of the cherry tree together with Kay, and began telling stories about her country in simpler terms. Not long after she started, Kay is already sound asleep.

... Seriously, is her story that boring?

"I almost fell asleep listening to your story."

Arthur's cynical voice appeared from the back of the tree. Lin Ling was surprised at his sudden appearance. (TL: See!! The "back of" appears again!)

"Why are you here?"

"I was here before you."

Arthur never moved from his spot as he replied, and added.

"An idiot like you wouldn't know anyway."

"Ah yes, that handkerchief. I'll return it to you once I washed it clean."

Lin Ling suddenly remembered the handkerchief.

"Just throw it away." He coldly raised his eyebrows in disdain.

"I won't use back the things you've used before!"

"What do you mean by that?!"

She felt depressed from his words.

"You are so young, yet your words are so barbed!"

"Mind your own business!"

He replied coldly.

"I'll be frank. Though it's Master's words, I do not believe it! That nonsensical thing about you being from another world... In my eyes, you're a crybaby. And I hate crybabies the most."

Arthur stood up as quickly as he said the words.

"I, Arthur, do not need people like you by my side!"

Staring at his shrinking back as Arthur walked back towards the castle, Lin Ling muttered quietly to herself.

"I hate myself too..."

How do I make myself more courageous? I, too, do not know the answer.

TL Note: Annnnnd done! Phew. I like how the author chose to highlight Lin Ling's inferiority complex. At the end of the light novel, you see her really brave and willing to do what she wouldn't at the beginning of the story. I think the manhwa really did not highlight her lack of self confidence better. More like, a crybaby lmao.

Chapter 9 - The king who shall conquers all

I'm on a rollll! That, or because my heart aches to play Fire Emblem Fates Conquest. It hurts that after completing Birthright, I am hurting my Hoshido family by choosing Nohr. If you have absolutely no idea what I'm rambling about, please ignore this... *sobs*

It is a new day.

The first morning rays of a summer day. None of that scalding afternoon sun, nor the lonesome sunset. Only the comforting and gentle stretch of land. *(TL: Basically the author is trying to say, what a nice, cooling morning.)* Merlin stroked the horse's nape as he gently leads it on. His smile ever plastered on his face, yet this time, it is wider than usual. His wide smile more brighter and brilliant than the sunshine rays now beaming onto the courtyard.

"Today, I will be teaching all of you how to ride a horse. It is the most simple and basic of knighthood skills. Master this, and you shall have the upper hand in most duels."

As Merlin droned on, Lin Ling stared into the sky. Something horse riding... Something dueling... All of these are incomprehensible words, words that she can not relate to as a person from a modern world.

Under Merlin's guidance, Arthur and Kay carefully got on their respective horses with no problems. As soon as it is Lin Ling's turn, she can only brace herself. She does not know that even horses are aware of strangers, and chose a chestnut coloured

horse. (TL: [The Chinese says "red horse" Imao. How red would you like your horse?!](#)) At her approach, her mount hissed loudly, causing her to take a step backwards.

"What's wrong? You aren't even afraid of Ah Hua, now you are scared witless of a horse?"

Merlin chuckled from the sides.

Lin Ling gritted her teeth at his comment, and slowly approached the cautious horse again. Clearly, her chosen mount wants nothing to do with her as he neighed even louder, his tail swished back and fro with increasing momentum.

"Useless girl."

Arthur coldly commented from the sides.

"You can do it, Lin Ling!"

Kay on the other hand, encouraged our heroine.

"Okay..."

His encouragement filled her heart with warmth and courage. She then continued her approach till she reached next to the horse. Before she can even touch it, she flew with a "biu" sound. The horse kicked her with no hesitation.

"Ow ow ow..."

She bit her handkerchief in frustration.

The next day.

Merlin, once again, smiled at the company of pages.

"Today, we learn the basics of swordmanship. Slash the wooden stakes and cut it down with your sword. This practice also serves to train your arm strength."

TL: It says flat side of the blade... What? Not a pro in sword terminology... 默林笑眯眯的看着他们, "今天, 我们来学习用剑的基本技巧, 先用平头的钝剑劈斩木桩, 来锻炼手臂的肌肉力量。"

Both Arthur and Kay deftly swing the sword and sliced the wooden stakes in two. Merlin studied the cut, before nodding appreciatively at how clean the slice is before moving onto Lin Ling.

"... Why aren't you swinging your sword?"

"I... I can't hold it up... It's so heavy!" (TL: Even kids can do it! Shame on you!)

Lin Ling's expression is a teary one as she struggled to raise the sword. Unable to hold it up any longer, her fingers let the hilt slipped. With a loud bang, the sword dropped onto her feet.

She screamed in pain. Arthur and Kay covered their ears from the painful shrieking.

"T_T..." She continued her habit of biting her own handkerchief.

The day after, the fourth day, then the fifth day...

She lost count on how many ruined handkerchief she has bitten into due to frustration. She drew countless circles on the ground just to relieve her vexation...

Oh please, she is just a high school student... Why should I learn these skills?

Why... sobs

On the sixth day...

Merlin smiled his usual smile, and began the very same word for the sixth day.

"Today..."

He glanced a sympathetic look at Lin Ling.

"I will tell a simple story of a knight."

Hearing this, Lin Ling breathed a sigh of relief. At last, there's no need to worry about getting injured today...

Arthur and Kay breathe a sigh of relief as well. At last, there's no need to worry about getting their eardrums ruptured...

TL: The knight's name is Ge Wen. No idea man, I just played Google and just chose a name...

"Once upon a time, there was a knight whose name was Gwynn. To save his lord and master, he promised to wed an ugly witch. She is hunchbacked, her set of teeth hideous, her breath reeks and occasionally laughed salaciously. The wedding guests who saw her disgusting behaviour and manners are offended. Nevertheless, being an upstanding knight, he overlooked her manners, introduced her to the guests, and completed the wedding ceremony. On the wedding night, Gwynn was surprised to find the ugly bride of his transformed into a beautiful, graceful woman."

Merlin stopped, looked to judge the expression on their faces before continuing.

"She then said, 'Sir Knight, I am grateful for your chivalry and kindness you have showered me with. I wish to repay you of what you've done. I can change back to my beautiful appearance if you so wish. However, I can only do this for half the day. For the other half the day, I will return to my ugly witch appearance. My dear husband, for you, I will let you choose which appearance you want me to appear in whichever half the day you wish for.'"

Merlin stopped at this point of the story, and asked his students.

"If you are Sir Knight Gwynn, what would you choose?"

To think that an ugly witch can transform into a beautiful woman. Although it happens for only half the day, it is still a pleasant surprise. Nevertheless, there is still the problem of the ugly witch appearance which undoubtedly, would trouble the greedy hearts of men. (TL: 但是女巫的问题却是两难选择, 因为它勾起了人们心底深处的贪欲)

"I would choose to let her assume her beautiful appearance at night."

Kay spoke up.

"She'll stay at home during the day. Only at night I would allow her to come out of the house. At the very least, doing this would make me feel at peace."

"Alright..."

Merlin turned to Arthur.

"What about you, Arthur?"

His pair of purple eyes flashed a cold stare.

"I would choose to let her assume her beautiful appearance during the day. At night, we'll sleep in separate rooms."

(TL: You little brats =.=)

"Lin Ling, what do you think?"

Kay asked while tilting his head.

Arthur gave her a disdainful look.

"As if an idiot can have thoughts on this."

"If I am Gwynn..."

Lin Ling muttered her answer softly.

"I would let her choose. I believe herself is the most qualified to make this choice. Right?"

Merlin's eyes gave an incomprehensible look as he gave the continuation of the story.

"The story goes on as such... Sir Knight Gwynn and Lin Ling gave the exact same answer. His ugly bride is content at his answer. She replied, 'Only you, my dear husband, understood a woman's heart greatest desire, and that is to be the master of their own life. To repay your kindness, I will assume my

beautiful appearance all day long."

Merlin smiled at the two children's surprised looks.

"As a knight, you must not only be brave, generous, pious and elegant. A knight must also respect the fairer sex's dignity and rights. This is more important to a knight than his mastery over his swordmanship. Understand?"

After many days of failure, she finally one-upped her fellow peers. Lin Ling allowed herself a moment of glory. Before she can even gloat in it, Arthur's mouth worked his way again.

"You stupid woman will never be able to dictate your own life."

Staring at the two children's back as they leave the courtyard, she felt conflicted again.

It is at this moment, that Merlin spoke to her.

"Lin Ling, I will gift you a weapon."

His voice faded with the wind, and in his hand a lightweighted bow appeared.

The bow's appearance can not be described in mere words. (TL: LMAO I agree. Incoming decorative text. 弓身上用许多细小的蓝宝石镶嵌成了某种蜿蜒的植物藤蔓，在阳光的照耀下反射出美丽的光芒，更令人惊奇的是，在这蓝光中还有一抹白色，散发着微微的银光，如同深夜中月亮的柔和光亮，如同湖面的粼粼波光.....)

The bow is inlaid with miniature sapphire gems, a curvaceous vine-like embellished it's limbs. Under the moonlight, it gave off a splendid shine. Even more surprising is the bluish coat on it's silver sheen. The softness of that gleam is comparable to the

night's bright moon, and the soft sparkle of the lake.

Lin Ling's pupil widened at the bow. It is the most beautiful thing her eyes had laid on.

"This... This is for me?"

Her steady voice betrayed a sense of disbelief at the gift.

"Together with the Moon Arrow, this bow will display the moon's power. (TL: I will punish you in the name of the Moon!) This will be your most powerful weapon in the future. However, you will use normal arrows for now. Before you can use the Moon Arrows, you need to train to raise your level. Once you have reached a certain level, the Moon Arrows will possess a stronger force. Simply speaking, the higher your level is, the stronger your attacks with the Moon Arrows will be. Enemies struck by your arrows will turn to stars themselves. This weapon is perfect for you."

Merlin handed over the bow to Lin Ling.

"As for the Moon Arrows, I will keep it in my charge until the day you can use it."

"Merlin, I really am not suitable for this... Like Arthur said, I'm an idiot. How can I help him in his quest if I'm an idiot?"

Lin Ling spoke out her lack of self confidence.

"Not suitable?"

The wizard's expression softens up.

"Aren't you doing fine right now? Lin Ling, believe in ~~me~~ that

believes in you yourself. One day, you will be most suitable person to stand with King Arthur. My eyes are never wrong."
(TL: Merlin meant it like, you will be fit enough to join King Arthur's camp.)

"But I..."

"Soon, I will teach you simple magic only to you."

Two weeks passed. The Countess has now returned to the castle. Just like Lin Ling expected, the Countess is a sophisticated and graceful lady. The next day, the Countess started classes on manners, musical instruments, social rules and etiquettes.

Lin Ling is relieved at the Countess's amity. Nevertheless, she can not give up her hopes to go home. What surprises her more is that after so many days, not a single egg was laid in the chicken coop, more so the Count has never expressed his interest to try an egg dish.

What should I do? Lin Ling is not familiar with the world's surroundings and thus, for her own safety, she only kept to the castle area.

"Lin Ling, are you listening to me?"

The Countess seemed to notice Lin Ling's daydream, and softly nudged her back to reality. Our heroine quickly nods and focused on the class instead.

TL: God save me at this part below.

"An aristocrat, be it friend or foe, must greet one another in a respectful manner. For the men, if he is not in a full armor

attire, should bring his left hand to his chest to salute, his right hand to remove his hat, and bow slightly before nodding. The women should lift her skirt slightly with both hands, and nod towards the other party. If both parties are on horseback, the men's greeting remains the same, while the women only need to nod in courtesy."

The Countess's voice is sweet and gentle, alluring listeners to stoop closer for more.

"But mother, what if the men is in full armor attire?"

Kay curiously raised a question.

The Countess looked at his son lovingly.

"Be patient, I was about to touch on that matter. If the men is wearing a full armor attire, he need not remove his helmet if he is on his mount. His left hand should be brought to his chest before nodding. He needs not bow, as long as he is riding a horse nor does he need to remove his helmet. A nod will do. Should both parties are mounted and a fellow aristocrat, as long as the other party is not of a higher status than him or a lady, he does not need to disembark from his horse, a simple nod will do. The same goes if the other rider is also fully armored."

This is so complicated! Lin Ling's head is spinning as she tried to make sense of this. She looked up and saw Arthur, looking at the Countess with forlorn eyes.

Lin Ling remembered Merlin's words. Arthur's mother passed away in his early years. Moreover, the Countess is Arthur's aunt. It would not be weird if their visage is somewhat similar to the boy.

Arthur, that boy... Does he miss his mother?

The sun soon sets, and the sky is replaced with a dark sky, stars hanging and twinkling above heads. The night breeze brought the flower's fragrance as it did, the moonlight shone on the scene, like a fairy tale-like dream. An olde European edifice, realistic iron swords and fragrant red roses... All of it adds up to a fantasy dream.

As Lin Ling paced slowly to the garden, she saw a small figure at the foot of the cherry tree. Arthur was quietly sitting, enveloped by the night surroundings. She discreetly approached the tree, and sat with her back leaning against the tree. Arthur did not notice her approach, only quietly watching the still night sky.

"You stupid woman. Still want to go home?"

He asked.

She blinked at the question.

"Of course! Although my mum is really naggy and always force me to do things that I hate, I still miss her. I noticed this as soon as I got here..."

Arthur was silent all the while.

"Once I noticed how much I miss her, she is already gone..."

He paused before asking.

"Why aren't you going home yet?"

"Once I have completed my task, I can go home."

She replied.

"Task?"

Arthur raised his eyebrows at this.

"You mean the task that Master asked you to help with in the future?"

"I know I'm a coward. I'm timid and quiet... I once saw a thief stealing right in front of me, yet I kept quiet... I saw my classmates bullied, yet I kept quiet again... There's even once I was harassed, yet that too, I kept quiet... I never tried to make the first initiative to know people either, I just kept to myself... Hoping that someone would do it to me first."

Lin Ling rattled on, only to stop halfway.

"... Why am I telling this to a rascal? You won't understand anyway..."

"I am not a rascal."

His tone was displeased at her comment.

"But the you now, is not suited to be by my side. Quickly discard your idea of going home. Here, you're on your own."

"Arthur, don't you miss your parents at all?"

Lin Ling blurted out to sate her curiosity.

Arthur's expression quickly changed, and he stood up. He wears a sneer on his face.

*"The day I was sent here, I have already forgotten the past."
(TL: He said it like, he discarded his past, like a whole new me or something.)*

He stood under the moonlight, his bearings is that of regality and dignity as he softly spoke out his determination.

"I will be the king who shall conquers all. Work hard, and join me by my side."

TL Note: PHEW. A little tough. But I got it done! Job well done, me! claps high five to herself

Chapter 10 - Can I go home?

TL: *looks at raw chapter* Well, this looked short enough. Let me try translating asap...

EDIT: Hell, it's long. The short scroll downwards for the Chinese raw on this chapter is a lie.

Lin Ling would visit the chicken coop everyday without fail. It has thus become her topmost priority of her routine just to swing by the smelly coop and to look for an egg. Everyday, without fail as well, she would be disappointed at her findings.

Humans are beings that quickly adapt. The same applies when it comes to disappointment as well.

Recently, she has been training hard. Lin Ling finally managed to get on her horse. Though as soon as she got up, she got kicked back down... This is an impressive breakthrough nevertheless.

After receiving her bow, she thought that she can finally say goodbye to the hellish sword training. It never crossed her mind that now, she had to train herself in both archery and swordsmanship. All in all, her suffering is now doubled.

Since she first tried archery training, she almost shot both Arthur's and Kay's behind several times. Over time, both trainees knew to tactfully "disappear" when she starts pulling her bowstring.

As for magic, Merlin strictly made himself clear that he will not teach her any magics until she had finished reading the basic theory of magic textbook. Merlin did not ask her to practice either, since magic is dangerous generally. If things go wrong during practice, Lin Ling could have easily turned her or anyone else into a spider or a frog.

"Merlin, why did you teach me magic to me only, and not to Arthur and the others?"

"Knights do not need magic. Even the ones I am teaching you are the basics of the basic. Use it only in times of crisis."

As he say this, Merlin lied on the fields on his back, while chewing on a leaf. He suddenly spoke up, as if just remembering something.

"Ah, there is something I need to tell you. Before you reached to this world, all the hens in the chicken coop was sent away."

"Huh?"

Her face twitched in annoyance at this revelation.

"Don't bother to visit the chicken coop any longer. After all, only roosters are in that coop."

Merlin stood up and smiled mischievously at Lin Ling's beet red face.

"H-how did you know?"

Merlin leaned in and sniffed.

"You never noticed how 'nice' you smelled?"

Lin Ling stiffed. This damned wizard... *(TL: Yes, raw says that lmao.)*

She, once again, passed by the very same coop she's been visiting for the past few days. Depressed, she glanced at the coop wistfully, only to see Arthur's figure walking towards her with something in his hands.

"Are you finding eggs again?"

Lin Ling frowned.

"You never seem to put in this much effort in anything but this... search of yours."

"I... I just really want to eat eggs..."

Arthur looked helplessly at the girl. He revealed his hand, a basket, and put it on the wooden bench.

"You can stop looking for them already. I managed to get some eggs from the town."

She stared incredulously at the basket. The basket is filled to the brim with eggs! Her eyes soon turn red, she sniffled and tears begin pouring out like a waterfall. It's eggs! IT'S REALLY EGGS! I can go home now!

"Why are you crying?! You really are a stupid girl!!"

"T-thank you... Thank you so much!"

Touched, her hands quivered as she took hold of the prized object she has been searching for.

"You don't need to thank me. I just can't stand you smelling like chicken droppings everyday!!"

Arthur just finished his sentence, then something incredible happened. Lin Ling cracked the egg open and ate it raw happily. Before Arthur can digest what just happened, a bright white light flashed and Lin Ling disappeared right before his eyes.

Lin Ling slowly opened her eyes. Her consciousness soon returned. As she tries to grasp her surroundings, she felt cold sweat dripping down her back. For a moment there, she did not where or what she was doing.

It was when she saw her piggy-patterned curtains, her familiar study table, her mobile phone, bed, and.... the computer! Only then did she stood up and exclaimed loudly (in her head), I AM BACK!

The first thing she did upon realising this is to grab her phone. She looked at the time displayed on her phone's screen. Only 30 minutes have passed since her adventure in the other world. She glanced at her clothes. She is still wearing her pig "coat of arms" pajamas. Next, she moved her mouse. The screen flickered back to life, showing the exact same two rows of sentence she has previously seen. She pressed EJECT on the CD-ROM which it easily slid out.

What exactly is going on? Was that a dream?

Memories of her staying in the game world flashed before her. It was realistic, believable to the point where she doubted herself.

Such a thing is impossible, right? I must have fallen asleep and dreamt an incredible dream.

As Lin Ling moved to store the disc back to its casing, she heard the sound of a key turning the door. She rushed to put the CD into her bookshelf, then arranged her study table as if she has been busy studying instead.

"Lin Ling! Your mother's home!"

Lin Ling's mother declared herself home from outside her room's door. Hearing her mother's voice, Lin Ling suddenly felt herself start to snivel. She could not help but ran out of her room and hugged her mother.

"Mum! I missed you!"

She blinked at her daughter's outburst, smiled and caressed Lin Ling's head.

"Silly girl. I was just away for a bit!"

"To me it's been a long, long time..."

Lin Ling murmured her reply. To her, it has indeed been a long time.

"Grandfather is alright too. You don't need to worry anymore."

She laughed happily.

"Mum, can I go visit grandpa during weekends?"

She raised her head and looked at her mother earnestly.

"I promised it won't affect my studies. I really want to see grandpa, because all of you are important to me."

Her mother showed a surprised expression. She was touched by her daughter's heartfelt words.

"What's gotten into this child today..."

"Mum, pretty please...?"

"Alright, alright. You can come with me this Saturday."

"Thanks mum!"

Lin Ling spoke her gratefulness softly. It turns out speaking out your thoughts is not hard. Neither is getting her mother's understanding on this matter.

Is this related to that dream I had?

The sky's all blue today. The sunshine sparkled, and green grasses lined the side of the road. The summer air is filled with crickets and the like busily beating their wings. The leaves filtered sunlight as it shines down on Lin Ling.

"Bibibibibibi... It's morning! Morning! Rise! And! Shine!" (TL: "BiBiBiBiBiBiBiBiBi.....到早上?! 早上! 不快? 起?, 不? 你哦!")
Her phone's alarm clock played her morning ringtone by her favourite voice actor. (TL: It means its a song to wake people up in the morning.)

Lin Ling yawned as she switched off her alarm clock, stared in a daze at her ceiling. She is pretty sure that this is her home. The

stuff that happened a few days ago, really is a dream, isn't it...

Lin Ling now stands in a bus heading to school. As it chugs forth, it suddenly stops.

"The bus seems to be out of order. Please change at the next stop."

The bus driver's voice faded, replaced by a number of grumbles by the passengers. Lin Ling's face turned sour at this. Seriously? Out of order at this time?! She glanced at her watch. Heavens, it's almost 8am! She does not feel like another wall-climbing adventure. Thankfully, the school is just nearby. It's time to bolt towards the school again!

She managed to reach the school gates just on time, but her lungs are now out of breath. She steadied herself to let her catch some breath. It was at this moment a luxurious Rolls Royce car stopped at the school gates. Its car flung open to reveal a handsome and elegant boy.

The month of March has the most beautiful, clear sky of the year. The sun casted a shadow on his face, revealing a smile so brilliant. His skin so fair, with the sunshine casting down on him, his skin became almost translucent-like.

"Third prince! It's the Third Prince!"

The girl on duty squealed, twinkling N number of stars flew out from her eyes. (TL: Think anime, readers. Like how excited these fangirls are and all you can see from them is squealing.) The Third Prince smiled at the girl and unexpectedly, turned to smile at Lin Ling too.

"Wen Yu, you're late today."

A pretty, doll-like girl almost bounced in her steps as she walked over to him. She sweetly said her greetings and stared a deadly look at all the fangirls of the Third Prince.

With one look from the minx, everyone dare not utter a sound in protest.

"So, it's you..."

Chen Yi turned to look at Lin Ling who has, all the while, stood at the side. She glared at the girl, with looks enough to kill. The 'minx' casually walked over to Lin Ling. Taking the advantage of surprise, she tugged at Lin Ling's bag hard and threw it far, scattering the bag's content all over the place.

"Oops, my hand slipped. My bad~ It's almost 8 am! You'll be late! Make sure you pick up your belongings, okay~"

She sneered.

"Ah, yes. Don't forget to tell your 'friend' too... Stop meddling next time."

This girl did it intentionally... She did it on purpose!

Lin Ling bit her lower lip in frustration and held back her tears. She then turned to pick up her belongings. Chen Yi's notoriety is famous to the point that not one offered to help Lin Ling pick up her belongings.

She bent down to pick her books up. Suddenly, a hand offered an English textbook of hers. Surprised, Lin Ling looked up. A

pair of black eyes stared back.

"Third Prince...?"

She gasped at her words. The most beloved Third Prince by the girls in this school, is actually offering to pick up her belongings?!

"Pick up your stuff quickly! Else you'll really be late to class!"

His gentle voice is within earshot.

"Wen Yu!"

Chen Yi angrily exclaimed at the Third Prince. She stared disdainfully at Lin Ling.

"Uhm... Thank you..."

Perplexed at this treatment, Lin Ling quickly picked up her belongings and stuff them back into her bag. It is at this moment, the fangirls began cooing at their idol.

"The Third Prince is such a kind person!"

"He is such a good person~"

All this while, Lin Ling only focused on picking up her belongings and did not notice the Third Prince's mischievous smile. He bent down and whispered so only Lin Ling can hear.

"Your life will be much harder now, four-eyed girl."

As soon as Lin Ling heard him call her 'four-eyed girl', she

stopped in her tracks.

It's him! That hateful guy who kicked my glasses away! It's really him!

Soon, it was evening. Lin Ling finished school and reached home. On the table, a note left by her mother greeted her instead. It mentioned that her mother has gone to visit her grandfather, there's food in the pot and it's ready to eat.

Lin Ling entered the kitchen and checked out the pots available. Today's dishes are impressive. Sweet and sour fish, sweet and sour pork, braised eggplant, and Lin Ling's favourite, scrambled eggs with green onions! The fragrance is simply delectable! (TL: Dishes name is based on MT.)

She could not resist not eating it now. So, our heroine simply ignored table manners of using chopsticks and used her hands instead. She popped the egg into her mouth. Before she could taste it, a dizzy spell struck her. Lin Ling was overcome with a pulling sensation and before long, lost consciousness.

Bok bok bok... (TL: This is my favourite chicken [onomatopoeia by yours truly](#).) Lin Ling heard chicken clucking next to her ears.

What is that smell? It stinks...

The familiar smell woke her up. She opened her eyes to find herself not in her room. Wait... Why am I not in my room? Why... why am I in a chicken coop?!

Moreover, this scene looks familiar to her...

"Who's there?!"

A loud voice appeared above her head and before she knew it, a gleaming silver sword is pointed at her throat.

Afraid and shocked at this new development, she raised her head. (TL: Sigh. Must we be told how handsome Arthur is everytime. Here goes another decorative paragraph. I could be wrong.)

The one standing in front of her, pointing a sword at her, is a 17 year old boy. Haughty, yet the air he exudes is both mature and a youngster. His face is pretty, like that of a beautiful man. His expression is that of a haughty young man. He now wears a mocking smile. A fiery sun burns within his pair of purple eyes, gleaming and strong even in the dark. (TL: Basically, 17 year old bishounen with great ambition.)

... Wait. Purple eyes?! A cold chill ran down her back. It cannot be... That rascal is only 7 years old!

"Oh, it's you, stupid woman..."

The youngster had a surprised look on his face.

This tone... She stammered to get her words across.

"... You are..."

The youngster swiftly sheathe his sword and sneered.

"I am---- Arthur."

Thunder struck in Lin Ling's head with a rumble.

Heavens! I'm back in this forsaken world! Gods!! Help me!!

TL: Third chapter of the day done! Phew. Have fun reading~

Chapter 1 - Why are you back?

TL: Wooooo Arc 2! Once again, seems short enough...

A crackling blaze on the hearth dances, filling Count Acre's castle with warmth, as should a fireplace does. The firewood split from the intense heat within, the crackles can be heard from the fireplace. Tendrils of wisp-like smoke extend upwards, gradually fading away as it reaches the ceiling.

Lin Ling, in this very same room, is in a vegetative state. As though her soul has left her, she sat looking dazed and forlorn at the handsome, blue-haired man sitting opposite her. He, on the other hand, looked leisurely enjoying the fireplace, as though he has already expected her reaction to this situation.

TL: [She look like this](#)

"Welcome back, Lin Ling."

Merlin cracked his usual smile.

She looked down at the floor, depressed. She meekly asked.

"Why am I back..?"

Merlin smiled softly.

"I already told you about this. The key to exit this game is E-G-G. To re-enter the game from whence you quitted, is also E-G-G. Did you not eat an egg?"

Lin Ling then remembered. Previously, she ate her favourite dish, scrambled eggs with green onions. Her mouth turned into an O as soon as she realised this. It can't be?! Because of this stupid reason?!

"Why didn't you tell me this important information?!"

Lin Ling asked through her gritting teeth.

Merlin handsomely gracefully adjusted his hair.

"I forgot."

TL: Imagine Merlin doing this, and said this line; I forgot or for weaboos, wasureta <3.

"Hey, do your job properly Mr. NPC! Isn't it your job to tell the players everything at the beginning of the game?! That's like, super basics stuff even game developers know!"

Merlin sighed softly.

"Sigh~ I must be getting old! There's just too many things to

remember in this game! But, Lin Ling, you should be thankful to me. Before you exited the game, I saved your progress for you. Else, you would find yourself restarting at the first point of the game the next time you entered the game again."

Absolute rubbish! You obviously remembered! Damned wizard. Damn you and your "memory"!

Lin Ling cursed in her heart.

Merlin shot her a sidelong glance.

"Language, Lin Ling! I can read minds, you know."

Huh? Lin Ling stiffened.

"I really don't like this game. Can't I quit totally?"

She switched on her puppy eyes.

"I have my own life to live you know! I can't spend it all here!"

"If you are worried about this matter, then don't."

He placed his hand on the chair's arm rest.

"I've been thinking... I will allow you to go between the two worlds at any time."

"Travel between the two... worlds?"

Lin Ling tilted her head, confused at Merlin's words.

"You mean... by eggs?"

The blue wizard smiled and nodded.

"But! The time here passes so quickly. I was just away for a few days and look at how much Arthur has grown! He honestly gave me a fright."

"That's fine. Once Arthur celebrates his 18th birthday, time here will follow the flow of the time in the real world. The game world's time will flow slower if you are in the real world as well."
(TL: Could be wrong. "那没有关系, 在亚瑟过了十八岁之后, 时间会重新设定, 当你在游戏里时, 现实的时间是静止的。而当你现代的时候, 游戏里的时间是十分缓慢的。")

Lin Ling paused for a moment.

"Then that means... If I am in the real world for a year, then only a year or so has passed in the game world. On the other hand, if I am in the game world, nothing much would have changed in the real world."

"Correct. This would not affect your real life, no?"

Merlin smiled.

"Just a few days ago, Arthur just celebrated his 18th birthday."

She felt her head ached at this news.

"Then when can I go home?"

"Everytime you completed a task, or beat a game's stage, I will let an egg appear before you." (TL: I'm confused too here. Isn't completing and beating the same thing. I think I'm missing something here. And I'm too scared to bother my pro-Chinese friend Imao. 每完成一个游戏阶段, 或者说打过一关, 我就会让鸡蛋出现在你面前)

Merlin stood up from his chair and looked out the window, peering into the lake outside.

"Due to an accident, you completed only half the task you were meant to do before exiting the game. Know that merely rescuing Arthur is not enough to complete the task."

Lin Ling's head drooped lower as soon as she heard of this.

"Then... what's the other half of the task?"

"Of course, is to learn magics and basics in this game. Pass my assessment, and increase your levels. Only then can I deem that you have cleared your task. Right now, your level is 1. You can easily be killed by anyone right now. Understand?"

Lin Ling nodded. She put on her most "obedient girl" face, trying to pretend that she will certainly listen to Merlin. As soon as she got back to her real world, she will definitely NEVER eat any eggs!

"It's getting late. I've asked the maids to get you a new set of clothings. Come to the dining hall once you're ready."

Merlin approached the door to leave the room, turned around as if he has just remembered something and laughed.

"Ah, by the way, to prevent the previous accident from happening again, you won't find any eggs even within a few hundred miles of this castle."

Huh? Then it's impossible to get home within foreseeable future?! Lin Ling sighed.

Only God knows how much sighing Lin Ling has done in this short period of time. Suddenly, she heard a chuckle close to her.

She looked up and saw a brown haired youngster leaning

against the door frame. His brown eyes revealed a tinge of joy.

"You are..."

She find herself racking her brain, trying to deduce this familiar looking boy.

The boy sighed in disappointment.

"Lin Ling, you actually forgot about me. Didn't we used to train together?"

A flash of realisation struck Lin Ling. She blurted out his name in surprise.

"You are... Kay?!"

Kay smiled brighter than ever.

"At least you remembered my name! I thought for sure you have forgotten about me for a second there."

"You are so big now! And so tall!"

Lin Ling got really excited. They say girls grow into womanhood as they grow older. She never have thought the same applied for boys as well. ([TL: I... I don't know about this](#))

line. I mean, have you seen Neville Longbottom now?!)

Not only Arthur, but Kay as well, Both grew into bishounen real handsome lookers!

Looks like I am not that unlucky after all... (TL: Just from these eye candies?! LMAO.)

"So I heard from Merlin... that you have been training all these years."

Kay asked with anticipation.

"What did you learn all those years?"

Lin Ling do not know how to reply him. Seeing how excited Kay is, she smiled sheepishly and answered.

"Look, did I change at all after all these years?"

Kay scanned up and down and replied.

"Nope."

"Ha..."

She laughed softly.

"This is what I've been training... Training to keep my

youthful appearance."

"Oh~"

Kay laughed softly as well.

"So that's what you've been doing. So~ Basically~ All your other skills are intact?"

"Haha...."

"Ah, that's right. What's this?"

Kay's line of sight is directly at her clothing. Lin Ling followed it, and it reached her mobile phone, her bear keychain still hanging from it.

"It's nothing."

She put back her phone into her pocket. To think that her mobile phone also travelled with her to this world! It's not like there's any use for it, since there's no signal here either.

"Ah, by the way, I'll be knighted next year!"

His brown pupils widened with excitement, as though he just remembered something interesting.

"Really?!"

Lin Ling asked.

"What about Arthur?"

Kay happily gloated away.

"Only men who celebrated their 20th birthday can be knighted. Arthur will never catch up to me since I am 2 years older than him. Haha!"

Kay got even happier the more he gloated on this. He laughed all to himself, and laughed even more...

Lin Ling slapped her forehead. To think that both Kay and Arthur are two peas in a pod...

Kay laughed heartily for a few moments, before stopping. He seem to noticed that something is wrong. He cast a sidelong glance just to see Lin Ling frowning slightly.

"Alright, I'll excuse myself here. See you at the dining hall!"

Lin Ling smiled and nodded.

"Don't say I didn't warn you..."

He turned and gave an inexplicable expression.

"Never mention the word 'egg' at the dining table later."

Lin Ling was puzzled.

"Why?"

"Since a decade ago, if anyone mentioned the word 'egg' in his face, he went totally berserk! Man, it was scary as hell... Only God knows why he reacted that way."

Could it be....

An incident flashed in her head. It may be a decade ago to these people, but it was just a few days ago to Lin Ling.

Does this relate to that incident...?

TL: Annnnnd done! Chapter 1 of Arc 2! Phew. 4 chapters in a day.

Chapter 2 - Spartan training, start!

Due to Merlin's explanation, Count Ector is not surprised by Lin Ling's sudden appearance. On the other hand, the countess maintained her sweet demure, her youthful face showed an interested expression at Lin Ling.

"Mother, Lin Ling's appearance is the result of her training." Kay interjected.

"Such a training exists? How enviable."

The countess glanced at her husband, and smiled gracefully. Merlin who's been quietly enjoying his wine at the side, grinned at her comment. Lin Ling nips at her bread and looked across the table. Her gaze falls onto the opposite occupant, Arthur. The young king has kept silent throughout the exchange at the table. The strong rays casted a shadow on his face, making it difficult for Lin Ling to examine his expression in detail. The rays, however, only serve to draw her curious stare. His beautiful blonde locks gleamed in the sun, similar to that of a golden lustre.

Arthur did not notice Lin Ling's gaze, and raised his head slightly. Shocked by his sudden movement, Lin Ling quickly averted her eyes which unfortunately, was caught red-handed by Arthur. He sneered back, the corner of his mouth twitched slightly. She quickly looked down dejectedly. She is quite aware how much Arthur disliked her return.

"We will begin training again tomorrow. We will rotate the lessons, beginning with the basics of magic for the entire day, then horsemanship and archery for the next."

Merlin spoke up while Lin Ling is still in a daze.

"Huh?! But I just came back!!"

Lin Ling can feel herself drowning in the depths of despair.

"Yes, which reminds me..."

Merlin then flashed the most beautiful smile to his pupil.

"I have an urgent business to attend to, which will make me too busy to teach you. So, I decided to give the task of tutoring you in the arts of horsemanship and archery to Arthur."

"W-what...."

She stiffens up at Merlin's words. A strong uneasiness grasp her heart.

"Master. I refuse to teach this stupid woman."

Arthur wasted no time to reject his master's proposal.

I don't want to learn from you either, she whispered the thought in her heart.

Although Lin Ling likes pretty boys, she does not want to bother a pretty boy who has a "go bother someone else" plastered all over his face. Come to think of it, it's quite puzzling. She has never once offended the young man, yet he stared at her hatefully as if she has wronged him in a thousand ways.

"Are you saying... you refused to listen to your own Master?"

Merlin wears a gentle smile on his face, yet the demeanor he carries himself says otherwise. It was a commanding aura that easily prevents anyone from refusing to accept his orders.

Arthur glanced at the girl bitterly. With much reluctance, he nodded his head to show that he agrees to his Master's request.

"As to how you should teach her... It is entirely up to you."

Merlin put down his cup. Upon hearing this, Arthur's cold expression turned to a gleeful one, as if he has just thought of a great idea. A cold chill run down her back at his sudden grin. Before she can compose herself, Arthur asked his master a question.

"So does this mean... If she fails to catch up, I am given full rein as to how I should deal with it?"

"Of course."

Merlin agreed to his suggestion without any hesitation. Arthur averted his gaze and stared at Lin Ling with a mischievous grin on his face.

"Well then, stupid woman. You heard my Master. Try your best~"

His words struck a chord with Lin Ling, snapping her from the shock. She sent a pleading stare to Merlin. Yet, the wizard merely smiled and ignored her desperate S.O.S. Knowing that this all-blue wizard is a lost cause, she turned her eyes towards the closest saviour, Kay. Kay, acknowledging her S.O.S signals, nodded helplessly at the girl.

"How about I help out with her lessons too?"

"Yup, yup, yup. I would love to have Kay teach me instead!"

Lin Ling bobbed her head desperately, doing her part more than Kay to help herself out of this predicament. Merlin knew of her reasons for doing so, and he did not object to it.

"That's fine with me. Let both Arthur and Kay teach you then."

Lin Ling sent a grateful glance to Kay. She wiped her hands clean and helped herself to another slice of bread. Her eyes then wandered to the food placed on the table and spoke in a low voice.

"Weird... There's still no eggs here."

It was just a passing comment, yet everyone's expression changed drastically.

Surprised by the sudden change, Lin Ling just remembered being warned not to mention eggs at all by Kay. She peeked at the opposite occupant. Arthur now wears an inexplicable expression. He then stood up, and rushed out of the hall. Not long after that, loud crowing from chickens can be heard.

"Lin Ling, didn't I warned you not to say 'eggs' in front of Arthur?"

Kay said this while shaking his head.

"Now who knows where will calamity strike next..."

Lin Ling tilted her head in confusion. Weird, what's the

connection between her and eggs?

"Curious?"

Merlin whispered next to her ear.

"It's all because of your actions at that time."

"Huh? You mean-"

"A living person disappeared right in front of his eyes. Moreover, it's caused by the gift he gave her. I believe anyone would have been traumatised by that."

He chuckled before continuing.

"Poor boy... Ever since that day, a whisper of the word 'egg' sends him to a mad frenzy."

He then lower his voice down even more.

"This is not programmed in the game at all."

Lin Ling laughed sheepishly. Looks like it really is her fault after all. This explains the death stares he's been giving her. To think that her game-exiting trick left such a deep scar in the young king! Sigh, just when she thought their friendship had improved a little, her little egg trick destroyed it without a trace!

Arthur, the great future King of Britain, who is surprisingly afraid of *eggs*...

She tries her best to restrain her laugh. It's hard to connect these two facts together!

Clouds graced the autumn sky, a light fragrance wafts in the air. A leaf gently floats down to earth as the autumn wind rustles the leaves. The dense trees filtered the sun rays, scattering the light as it beams down from above.

In this beautiful morning, student Lin Ling nodded off as she stood within the compound of the castle. In her heart, she never would have thought that she will be back in this dastard world.

"Hey, wake up! Stupid woman!"

Before she can reply, a big lump appeared on top of her head. Her sleepiness flew out of the coop immediately. Lin Ling stared hatefully at the highly motivated blonde-haired boy as she caressed the lump on her head.

This brat actually used violence against her!!

"What are you staring at!?"

He gripped the reins in his hand tightly.

"You must have forgotten how to ride a horse entirely!"

"Arthur, Lin Ling is still a girl. You should watch your manners around a lady."

Kay interjected from the sidelines.

Lin Ling quickly chipped in while she hurried to climb over her mount.

"He's right! Respecting a lady is one of the most basic rules in a knight's code of honour! Violence against women is not what a knight should do!"

Arthur merely raised his eyebrows at the girl's outburst, and chuckled to himself.

"That's true. However, a knight's chivalrous code of honour only applies to women... And not on you, stu. pid. WOMAN!"

Lin Ling stiffens at his words. Isn't this just twisting words to fit his own rule?!

"Why did you stop?! Get on the horse now!!"

Arthur pointed towards the chestnut steed next to him. The well-groomed horse nuzzled his hand affectionately.

"Cui Er... Will I be tortured like this the whole day?" (TL: Cui Er is the horse's name.)

His purple eyes flashed a gentle look as he slowly caressed the steed's mane. He then turned to look at Lin Ling's progress, his tender expression now long gone.

"What's wrong? You need me to lift you up?"

"No, I'll get on myself..."

She approached Cui Er and relying on her previous experience, climbed onto the back of the horse with much difficulty, even with Kay's help. Lin Ling gripped the reins tightly. Cui Er does not behave well with strangers, her ears swished back and forth

as proof to this.

"Do you remember the basics, Lin Ling? If you don't, we can try again later."

Seeing how Lin Ling fidgets nervously, even Kay could not help but be worried for the girl. She gripped the rein even tighter after Kay's advice. Even though fear still has a hold on her, she is unwilling to back down after looking at Arthur's mocking grin. She shook her head and replied Kay.

"It's fine. I did it once, I'll do it again."

However, she never rode such a tall horse even in previous lessons.

"In that case, let's see you try going a full circle in this courtyard."

Arthur casually directed Lin Ling as he stood next to a white horse. Cui Er acknowledged her master's orders and she reared his head. Her actions surprised Lin Ling, and she unintentionally nudged Cui Er with both her legs.

She neighed and rushed out like an arrow. Terrified, Lin Ling screamed for help as she, the rider, shot out with her steed as well.

As Cui Er galloped away, her body rocked in tandem, as if trying to unseat Lin Ling from her back. Cui Er's furious gallop scared her witless. She leaned her body lower, her hands held onto the steed's neck strongly in an attempt to balance herself. This only serves to anger Cui Er more. She increased her momentum, trying her best to throw off her frightened rider.

"This is bad! Arthur! Lin Ling will be in danger if we don't stop it!"

Kay cried out, fearing what would happen next. If anyone gets thrown off at this height, even a normal person would die or hit their head so hard, they'll be a patient at a mental hospital!

Arthur yelled out angrily.

"She's really stupid!"

As soon as he finished his sentence, he got on the white mount next to him and galloped towards Lin Ling.

Cui Er's rocky gallop hurt her head. Her sight is now a blur. I can't hold on... I no longer have the strength...

Lin Ling ponders on a question that she forgot to ask the wizard.

If I die in the game world, would I return to the real world?

"Stupid woman! Hold on to the reins, not the neck!"

A loud voice appeared suddenly from her back, snapping her back to reality.

At first, she thought it was a dream and refused to listen to the voice.

Only when Arthur caught up to her, she realized her mistake.

She raised her head weakly to look at the rider next to her. What she saw...

is a cool looking young boy desperately catching up to her, his

blonde hair reflecting the sunlight while his sleeves swayed with the wind...

It is as if she sees a hero coming to her rescue.

It is at this moment, her fear-driven mind comes up with 6 words

--- a handsome prince on a white horse!

His current appearance really does suit her ideal "prince on a white horse" impression...

However, the dire situation does not allow her to daydream. Lin Ling heard Arthur yelled out to her.

"Give me your hand!"

Lin Ling shook her head furiously. She dared not let go. She was afraid that if she did, the horse will throw her all the way to Java (Indonesia).

"You idiot! Just give me your hand!"

Arthur held his rein with his free hand, leaned slightly towards Lin Ling while he hold out his other hand towards the girl.

"I-I'll get thrown off if I do!"

She stammered to get her words across.

"Give me your hand!"

He raised his voice up a notch.

"Trust me! I won't let you fall!"

His words sparked courage in her, as she lifted her head to look at him.

The wind beats down on his golden locks. His hair is a mess to behold. The cold stares he used to gaze at Lin Ling now a pair of purple eyes so resolute in his words, she feels a sense of security to entrust herself to him.

She hesitated for a bit before closing her eyes. She let go of the rein and extended her hand out gingerly.

"YOU STUPID WOMAN! I'M ON YOUR RIGHT! GIVE ME YOUR RIGHT HAND! WHY DID YOU EXTEND YOUR LEFT HAND?!"

He almost shout himself hoarse at the girl.

Lin Ling was so nervous, she did not noticed she hold out the wrong side of her hand. She quickly switched sides. Arthur did not miss this chance. He took her hand firmly and lifted her up. Just like that, he carried her over to his side.

"AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

The whole thing took only a split second, yet Lin Ling was too nervous to notice her successful extraction. She screamed in fear as Arthur seated her in front of him.

"Why are you still screaming?! Be quiet!!"

He then held the rein with both his hands.

Lin Ling opened her eyes. As soon as she noticed that she is now safe, she sighed in relief. Her sighing then turned to held

breath as she realized that the "safe place" she is now in is within his embrace. The scent of fresh grass wafted in the air. Her cheeks are flushed. She fidgeted in her seat.

"Stop moving around. I'll honestly push you down."

Arthur warned her blatantly. He does not understand what makes this girl so special. Everytime she's involved, he gets really mad easily. Perhaps, it was his perfectionist attitude that makes tolerating this cowardly, stupid girl especially hard!

The whole nonsensical tale of her helping me become king is a joke! No... It is the biggest joke in history!!

After threatened by her saviour, she dare not move or fidget anymore. Suddenly, she feels guilt welling up in her. Looks like a useless person will still be useless wherever they may go. Whether it is the real world or the game world, that fact will not change.

Chapter 3 - The suffering continues

TL: KFN A???C3 will be uploaded by today.

Once Arthur brought Lin Ling back, Cui Er too, trotted happily back to her master after some time has passed. She went back to Arthur's side, and nuzzled up his hand.

Although her heart still beats fast, Lin Ling extended her hand to pet Cui Er to smooth things out between the two, and hopefully, work things out with their mount-rider relationship. However, before she can even reach her mane, Cui Er kicked her away.

"Ouch..."

She rubbed her sore shin.

Oh please! You almost killed me, and yet here I am, trying to make friends with you... Why won't this horse play nice?!

"Cui Er dislikes you."

Arthur returned to his cold, sneer stare.

"I suggest a different horse, since this mare is impossible for you."

"Yes, I think so. Let's give you a different horse. It'll be much safer too."

Kay chipped in his opinion too.

Lin Ling too, made her decision. She was going to nod to show that she agreed to their suggestions or at least, she was supposed to. She caught Arthur's scornful gaze at her that clearly says "You can't do it."

His stare made her hesitate.

"Let's choose a shorter horse. Hey, brother, help her choose a sh--"

"No."

Her sudden reply cut short Arthur's sentence.

Surprised, he asked,

"What did you say?"

"I said... I want to ride this horse."

Lin Ling too, was surprised at how brazen her words are. This is not like her at all. Arthur turned his head to look at her and smirked while he asked Kay.

"Brother, did you hear that? Did I hear wrong?"

Kay looked back at Arthur, and smiled kindly.

"Well, let her have a try then."

"If you say so, Brother. I honestly don't mind at all~"

Arthur climbed on his horse and turned towards Lin Ling.

"Do whatever you want to earn his trust. Make sure he doesn't hate you the next time you try to ride him."

Lin Ling nodded.

"I understand."

"Ah, I suppose I should warn you..."

His gaze carried an estranged expression.

"Cui Er hates strangers touching her neck."

She stared at his back, as he rode away from the courtyard. She muttered to herself.

"I really am useless and a coward..."

Kay patted her shoulder gently.

"Not exactly. At the very least, you now have the courage to challenge yourself. Isn't that true?"

She blinked at his comment. Lin Ling glanced at the pair of brown eyes, who's owner now encourages her. A sense of gratitude warms her heart. Her eyes almost wet with tears.

"Thank you... Kay."

At first, Lin Ling thought she'll be given room to breathe after the morning's startled horse incident. Never in her mind did it cross that Arthur would drag her to the courtyard to continue

on with archery training.

As her gaze travelled down the Moon Bow, she felt overwhelmed with surprise... and pride. This belongs to her, and her alone. As a matter of fact, in this game world, this is the only belonging she has.

A melancholic feeling fills her chest as she holds the Moon Bow in her hand.

"Sigh, Master really is bias. He actually gave you such a beautiful weapon!"

Kay grinned at the side.

Lin Ling too, chuckled at his comment.

"I guess bows suit women more."

"Hmph. Any good weapons in your hand is useless, since you can't wield them properly anyway."

Arthur interrupted and stared coldly at Lin Ling.

Lin Ling cursed in her heart.

Damn you! Can't you just keep your venomous words to yourself?!

As if to confirm Arthur's words, her resulting training with the bow can only be described in three words; *dreadful as hell*.

"Arthur, why the silent treatment?"

Kay looked at Lin Ling with pitiful eyes, then turned to look at Arthur.

"Brother, I'm speechless."

Arthur threw away the arrow in his hand.

"Just look at this mess! She's gotten worse from before!"

Kay chuckled at Arthur's exasperated comment.

"Not really! At least her shot didn't come our way 'mysteriously', that's actually a great improvement!"

Arthur chuckled lightly at Kay's words. An old memory of his childhood times resurfaced. Both Kay and Arthur would agree to flee when it's time for Lin Ling's archery training. As soon as he thought of this, he grinned to himself.

However, as soon as he examines the intact effigy target, as well as the mess within the vicinity of the effigy, he feel anger bottled up threatening to unleash itself towards the terrible bowman.

"That's enough. We'll rest for the day."

Arthur pointed at the bow in her hands.

"Your owner is useless! The wielder's talent decides a weapon's usefulness. I hope you don't turn that treasure of yours into trash."

Lin Ling grasped the Moon Bow in her hand tightly. The miniature inlaid sapphire gems dig into her skin, the gem's

edges hurting her hand like how thorns would.

She does not wish... for this Moon Bow to be trash.

After dinner, she sneaked into the kitchen and stole some carrots. With the carrots in hand, she rushed into the stables. She once befriended the other horses with this method. It should work on Cui Er as well. As soon as Cui Er noticed the girl, she snorted at her loudly. It is obvious that she is not welcomed at all.

Lin Ling gave her best smile, and waved the carrot in front of Cui Er. She shook his mane, clearly showing disdain at her actions.

"Hey gorgeous, why are you playing hard to get?"

Lin Ling then sat on a stack of hay.

"If you really hate me, then at least give me a reason... Are we really like magnets who repel one another?"

As if to say yes, Cui Er swished her ears back and forth and neighed softly.

"I never knew you hated being held at your neck. Then again, I was scared witless today, so I wasn't thinking straight. It's an accident, okay?"

Lin Ling stood back up, and approached the mare. She noticed Lin Ling's movement, and unhesitatingly raised his front hooves in preparation.

Lin Ling hesitated for a brief moment and decided against approaching her. She gave up on having a civilised dialogue, and dodged out of Cui Er's range.

"Gorgeous~ I'll give up for now. We'll wait till your mood's all better, then we'll continue chatting, okay?"

Lin Ling left the stables and unfortunately, on her way out, she bumped into an unlikely person. The scent of fresh grass wafted into her nostrils. She raised her head to look at the person she bumped, and instead, was greeted by a pair of mocking purple eyes.

"Why are you here?"

Lin Ling asked.

"If I'm not here, how can I watch a stupid girl's silly actions at the stables?"

His reply carries a ridicule tone to it. Lin Ling felt anger welling up in her.

"I just want to be friends with it. What's so silly about it?"

"I suggest you stop wasting your efforts on this. Choose another horse instead and stop wasting my time."

Arthur's face wears the very same expression that spurred her on this challenging quest. Lin Ling felt depressed at his jeers. Although she's not entirely happy with it, there's simply no way about it. Her hand brushed against her skirt, and she accidentally touched her mobile phone.

A naughty idea popped up in her head. She swiftly took out her phone, and switched it on.

Wow! I'm really lucky! There's still some battery left!

"What's that?"

Arthur curiously asked.

"This is..."

She called out his name. A surprised Arthur then looked up, and she wasted no time to snap his photo. The shutter clicked, and the subject's expression is forever captured on film.

"What happened?"

He did not understand what just took place.

"Ah, well, this tool is a device that allows me to capture souls. Your soul... It's now in my hands."

She said this frivolous sentence in a serious tone.

Arthur chuckled in disbelief.

"Yea, nice try."

"Oh? You don't trust me?"

She thrust the phone's screen to his face.

"Have a look then, your soul is in this tool!"

Arthur curiously peeked at the screen. What graced the small, squarish screen... is his face. His expression changed when he noticed the photo.

"Just what on earth is this?"

"Didn't I say... Your soul is captured and imprisoned in here!"

She saw a sliver of fear in him, yet a calm expression graced his face instead. Lin Ling tries her hardest to suppress her laugh.

*The Great King of Britain is actually this easy to fool!
All hail the might of science and technology!*

"Nonsense!"

Arthur quickly tries to wrestle the phone away from her, but Lin Ling was quicker. She closed her flip phone and grinned evilly.

"Ah, I forgot to mention one thing. If something bad happens to this tool, your soul will forever be trapped in it."

His expression stiffens.

"I don't believe you."

"Feel free not to then."

She glanced at him, before turning around to leave. As she walked away, she chuckled to herself. Looks like someone is not sleeping tonight!

After staying here for two days, Lin Ling finally feels that her mood has improved drastically.

Chapter 4 - The language of flowers, Cosmos

TL: I double-checked again and again. The flower is a [cosmos](#).
Many thanks to Mary and Yu Chen <3

The day begins anew.

The morning sun rays shone down the hall through the window. All things within it gained a warm, golden glint, courtesy of the sunlight rays. It's shimmer dazzling and slips through. In the middle of the hall, lies a white long oaken table. Four milky granite pillars stood tall, surrounding the long table itself. However, right now, all four pillars have a soft golden gleam to it.

While eating her breakfast portion, she noticed Arthur having two big eyebags, looking just like a panda. So she was right after all. He did not catch any Z's yesterday night.

"Arthur, why do you look so tired?"

Worried, Kay asked the young future king.

"It's nothing."

Arthur's eyes sweep past Lin Ling in a flash. He quickly brought the dish near him to his lips.

"Arthur! That's the [finger bowl](#)!"

Unfortunately, Kay's warning came too late. Arthur had already drank a gulp of water from the bowl.

Lin Ling hold her sides, doing her best to prevent herself from laughing out loud from the side. It seems that her mischievous prank yesterday gave Arthur a big shock.

Merlin smiled softly and whispered.

"It's rare to see Arthur that muddled."

"Arthur, are you feeling alright?"

Even the Count could not help but feel a little surprised seeing an unknown side of the future king.

"I'm fine."

Arthur's lips twitched. Doubts surfaced within his heart. Is his soul really trapped, thus causing him to behave so strangely?

Poor student Arthur did not realise at all, these are just the consequences of his lack of sleep.

Just when Lin Ling finished wiping her greasy hands for the n th time, she decided to settle the matter of her chopsticks first.

After breakfast, her magic lessons begins.

Thanks to the n th number of exams, she can still remember clearly the magic theories she learned. She withheld the urge to tell Merlin while he widened his eyes in surprise... If it's about memorising every word they read, then most of the students would definitely pass the exam. Well, anyone would if they can withstand the pressure of a rice cooker!

As someone who memorised the entirety of [Zhu Ge Liang's Chu Shi Biao](#), how would a simple magic theory scare her?

"Your memory is not bad at all. Looks like I can teach you wind magic soon."

Merlin nodded.

"I'll give you the power to manipulate the wind. It will be useful to you in the coming war."

The ability to control the wind as I please... Lin Ling entered her dream land, those words sounded really cool... As long as she feels joyful, she'll summon the wind from southeast today, then she'll call upon the northwest wind tomorrow... The day after tomorrow, wind from every direction on the compass...

(TL: While in English, we usually call all 4 directions as north south east west... Chinese calls it dong xi nan bei 东西南北 which is east west north south instead. We also use it to say 'from every direction'.)

Ah! We're not even playing mahjong*! *(TL: Note at the end of this chapter.)*

Merlin saw her funny expression and knew, her thoughts must have gone somewhere equally funny as well.

"What's wrong with Arthur today?"

He asked all of a sudden.

His question slowly dragged back her thoughts back to Earth. With a distracted look, she replied.

"I don't know. It's not like I'm Arthur himself."

"And you told me you don't know."

His blue eyes seem to hide a smirk.

"I asked him just now. It was quite tough to dig it out of him, but in the end he told me this... That you used a magical device to trap his soul. No wonder he seems out of it today."

"Ha..."

She gave a hollow laugh.

"It's actually my cellphone. Who asked him to keep getting on my bad side?"

"Didn't he saved you that day?"

"He didn't save me willingly."

"Lin Ling, you will be assisting King Arthur in the future. So, you should not complicate your relationship with him."

"But right now, it seems like he hates me more."

Lin Ling cast her eyes down.

"I don't blame him at all. After all, I'm really useless. I couldn't even ride a horse properly, my arrows never hit the mark. No matter what I do, I couldn't seem to get anything done right."

Merlin revealed a lazy smile, and gently patted her head.

"Don't be so depressed about this. Take your time. However, as long as you have not passed my assessment, you are not allowed to go home."

Lin Ling buried her head between her knees.

"I... It's not like I never gave my best. I mean, even the horse is bullying me! This is such a small matter, yet I could not solve it. Completing this game is a tall order for me!"

A breeze blew through the courtyard and with it, a fresh scent from the woods. It's a refreshing scent.

"Then, you want to give up?"

His voice floated with the autumn wind towards her.

Lin Ling hesitated and nodded.

"If I wish to give up, will you let me go back?"

Merlin wore an inscrutable smile as he stared at the girl. Those eyes of his are charming, like that of autumn sun's brilliant splendor.

"Lin Ling, follow me."

Lin Ling do not know of this, but apparently there is a large field of cosmos flowers just at the back of the castle.

Under the clear blue sky, it encompasses the entirety of the cosmos-filled field. White, red, pink, purple... Colours of different arrays swept across the field. Like the fairer sex, each of these flowers too have a different demeanor to them. Cute

poses, sensual ones, fragile... They come in different sizes too. Big petals, petite ones... Altogether, these flowers seem to be whispering words amongst themselves.

(TL: The raw is all messed up. I couldn't find a better raw so I gunned for this one. I think I captured the whole paragraph generally right... I think... 澄彻透明的蓝天下, 映衬着整片大波斯菊, 白的、红的、粉红的、桃红的、紫红的.....花姿柔美可爱, 风雅撩人。??柔弱的?上?著一朵?大的花?, 迎著?忽左忽右、舞步比芭蕾舞者更?盈, 即使只是一??微?也?使得它??不停, 花?花之?不?地互相碰?著, 仿佛在彼此低低诉说着什么。)

"It's beautiful!"

She cried out sincerely.

She have seen these flowers before in a florist in the real world, but she has never seen such a beautiful field filled to the brim with cosmos flowers.

"Two years ago, this was a wasteland. The dense population of these cosmos flowers is an unexpected occurrence."

Merlin whispered the words while he gazed upon the beautiful flower field.

"These are wild flowers?"

She asked with a puzzled expression.

"Yes. Perhaps their seeds were brought here by the wind."

He smiled.

*"Don't you think they possess a strong vigor to live?"
(TL: The Chinese means hardy, strong life force, hard to kill.)*

Lin Ling kneeled down. Her hands gently caressed a blooming red cosmos flower. She sighed and said,

"It's almost inconceivable that a gush of wind could easily scatter their petals away at any time."

"At a first glance, these cosmos flowers seem weak. Yet, even if strong winds scatter them away, they would once again bloom. These flowers are weak, yet strong. They look fragile on the outside, and thus, it's unthinkable that they possessed such strong will to live."

Merlin looked at her purposefully.

"This is why in the language of flowers, cosmos flowers represents---- strength. That is, strength and will to live. The very strength to not give up in the face of adversity."

Lin Ling's finger shuddered. An indescribable feeling, like spring melting the snow fills her heart. She gazed at the swaying cosmos flowers under the wind, and revealed a heartfelt smile.

"I think I know why you brought me here."

Merlin chuckled.

"Be it in the game, or the real world. Both are real. If you give up on yourself in the game world, that would be equivalent to giving up in the real world."

He then randomly asked.

"Do you remember the eight chivalry rules of a knight, the fourth clause?"

(TL: I tried looking up Code of Chivalry. I got back many different answers. [Here's one.](#))

"Duty?"

She blurted out.

"Correct. Duty. The moment you booted up the game, you have a duty to complete it. You must persevere and never give up, this too is your duty. Be it the game world or the real world, this is true."

A drop of dew rolled off the cosmos's delicate petal into her open palm. The dew is cool to the touch. She clenched her hands. It seemed like she inhaled sharply.

"I'll... I'll give it a try again."

"Remember your words now, Miss Cosmos."

His eyes glinted mischievously.

Lin Ling tried to hold it in but in the end, she could not help but laugh.

After that talk with Merlin, every night there would be a girl sneaking into the stable and equally quick, kicked out with bumps all over her body. In the background, there would be apples, pears and other snacks flying all over the place away from the stable together with the girl.

Tonight too, is not an exception. Lin Ling brought a bucket of water with her into the stable again. She grinned as she stood in front of Cui Er.

"Hey beautiful, let me scrub you down tonight. Do you know that as a beauty, it's important to maintain a clean body? Only then can you have many suitors!"

Cui Er clearly ungrateful, turned her snout elsewhere. Her ears twitched.

Lin Ling took up a brush in her hands, and said with a secretive tone.

"This is my customized brush. It's guaranteed to be comfortable!"

Once she finished her words, she used the brush to scrub Cui Er's body a few times. Cui Er wants to kick her away, but was hindered by the length of the brush. However, after being brushed for some time, Cui Er quietly thinks that it's actually quite comfortable. Soon, she no longer gave a hateful impression towards Lin Ling. As Lin Ling continued brushing Cui Er's body, the horse felt so good that it neighed in delight.

Lin Ling's heart leaped in joy. Looks like this method works!

Once she finished brushing Cui Er's whole body, Lin Ling is already tired. However, what made her so delighted is that her "service" is actually working. Lin Ling approached her and the tamed horse no longer kicked the girl anymore.

"Beautiful, I'll come visit again tomorrow."

She winked towards Cui Er's direction and picked up her stuff before leaving the stables.

Not long after she left, a silhouette entered the stable, and gently patted Cui Er's head. The horse quickly replied in favour, and meekly rubbed her snout against him.

"She really is a stupid woman..."

The young man's lips revealed an amused smile.

A few days passed, it is that time for dinner again. Every diner was surprised to find an extra tableware right next to their usual ones.

"This is called a fork. It's easier to eat with this."

As Lin Ling spoke, she demonstrated how to use the fork. She is not surprised at everyone's reaction. After all, it was just a few days ago that she roped in Kay to help her carve forks out of wood. He too, had a surprised expression on him.

To be frank, it is a little odd. The first time she came to this place, she never had the mood to do these things.

As they watched how relaxed Lin Ling is at picking up a piece of meat with the fork and eating it, the Countess laughed.

"Such an interesting tableware! It certainly makes eating elegantly an easier work."

As she spoke, the Countess picked up the fork on the right side of her plate and used it.

Seeing the Countess use it, the rest too curiously followed suit.

"Just what is that you're using?"

Arthur glanced at the new chopsticks she is now holding.

"Oh! This is yet another tableware. But I'm afraid it's too hard for you to use."

As she replied, she deftly stuffed herself with more cabbages with her chopsticks.

Sigh, this taste is so bland. It can not be helped, since the people from the medieval era treat vegetables as a low class ingredient. Although many people rely on these vegetables as their livelihood, it is a type of food indispensable to human beings. However, many cookbooks did not include vegetable meals but instead, these vegetable-based dishes are usually presented as a side dish. Thus, it's only natural that the variety of methods to make these green meals are not only a few, but also rare. Furthermore, the common produces of modern Europe does not exist in her medieval era. For example, potato, red beans, cocoa, tomato, pepper, and corn. All of these produces begin to show up only after the 15th Century and the discovery of the New World, whereby these produces are brought over from America to Europe. Plus, it was only after a long period of war that these vegetables slowly blends into European dishes.



When it's long and you're not sure at all. No worries folks, got it proofreaded.

The designers of this game really does abide by the history book strictly.

Now, imagine there's a BBQ going on in the garden. Wouldn't that be great?

"I want to use it."

Arthur pointed to her chopsticks.

"But... It's really difficult."

"Nothing is too difficult for me."

His eyes had a childish expression to it.

A large vein popped on her forehead. She then gave her chopstick to Arthur.

He took it up without a care, as though can't wait to use it.

PLOP.

The meat dropped.

PLOP.

His vegetable dropped.

PLOP.

The chopsticks dropped.

The hall is dead silent. Everyone is busy familiarizing themselves with the new tableware. Only Arthur busied himself creating plopping noises.

What should I do?! Lin Ling really wants to burst out laughing. If she keeps holding it in, her sides will hurt! She peeked at everyone's faces at the table. The Count and the Countess used their napkins to hide their grin. Kay's face is bright red from holding his laugh in. Even Merlin could not help but smirk as well.

After everyone finished their meal, only Arthur is left at the table still busy doing battle with his food.

TL: [Mahjong](#) is a tile game where we love to bet. 3-4 players try to get as much 'points' to win. Whoever fulfils the 'point' and 'combo' criteria wins. So it's kinda like a game of speed too. You need 5 points on your 'deck' on the table and at hand to win, but if you score a 10 point, everyone needs to pay you in full. Even if your 'deck' doesn't have enough points to win, your combo can also give you 'points', depending on what kind of

combo it is. Please don't ask what kind of combos there are, I only know the rules of the game. It's hard to master the game being a banana myself. I don't even know know what I'm doing, I just send out tiles for people to get combos to win (T_T). Anyway, although you may have enough 'points', but you still need to create a winning combo to win the game. Get good tiles, you get higher chance to win.

Anyway, the reason Lin Ling mentioned mahjong is because there's tiles with North, South, East and West on it. It's a major set of tiles in the game.

